

Short Talk

(SHT077)

God of the Impossible

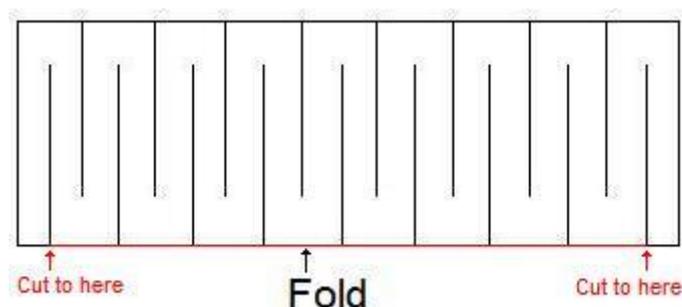
© Jane Hulme 2017

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE”

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to be like Mary, who believed God could do the impossible rather than Zechariah who didn't believe God could do the impossible.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Advent, Faith, Mary, Zechariah
- Biblical references:** Luke 1:26-38
- Lectionary:** Year B – The 4th Sunday of Advent
- Props:** A piece of A5 paper and a pair of scissors.
- Before the talk:** You will need to practice the trick of cutting the piece of A5 paper so that you can “walk through the sheet of paper.”
- Fold an A5 piece of paper in half lengthwise and then cut as shown in the diagram below¹.



- Having made the long cuts, cut through the folded parts of the paper except for the first and the last ones.
- Open up to make a large circle which you can step through.

If this doesn't work for you, go online and type into google, “Walk through a piece of paper trick” and you will discover YouTube videos that will show you how to do it.

.....

I am going to do something totally impossible today.

- Can you see this piece of paper? (*Hold up piece of A5 paper*)
- Well I am going to make a hole in it that I can climb through.
- I know that that sounds impossible to do, but I am going to do it.

How many of you believe that I can do this impossible thing? (*Receive responses*)

- How many of you don't believe me? (*Receive responses*)

¹ The diagram came from the website: <http://www.pleacher.com/mp/puzzles/tricks/hole.html>

OK....let's give it a go. *(Pick up a pair of scissors and make the cuts in the paper as shown in the diagram above. Open up the paper to show the large hole then step through it!)*

- How about that?
- I managed to do the impossible and some of you here had faith that I could do it.

You know God can do things that seem impossible to us.

- In the Christmas story God did an impossible thing for at least two people.
- One of them was a Jewish priest called Zechariah and the other was a young girl called Mary.

So if I could have an older gentleman to come and stand next to me please to remind us of Zechariah *(Older man comes to stand next to you)*

- And if I could have a young girl to come and stand the other side of me to remind us of Mary. *(Young girl comes to stand next to you)*

One day God sent His angel Gabriel to speak to Zechariah while Zechariah was carrying out his duties in the temple.

- Zechariah was afraid but the angel told him that God had good news for him.
- The good news was that Zechariah's wife, who by this time was very old and well past the age of having children, was going to have a baby.
- This baby was to be called John and he would prepare people for the coming of Jesus.

Now I wonder how you would have reacted if God had sent the angel Gabriel with a message to you that something impossible would happen in your life, like having a baby when you were really old?

- Do you know how Zechariah responded?
- He said: *"How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is also old."* (Luke 1:18 ERV)

Zechariah didn't believe the message that the angel Gabriel gave him because it seemed impossible.

- After all who has children when they are really old?

A few months later God sent His angel Gabriel to speak to a young girl called Mary.

- Mary too, like Zechariah, was afraid but the angel told her that God had good news for her.
- The good news was that she was going to have a baby.
- This baby was to be called Jesus and He would be very great and one day He would rule as King over all people.

Now I wonder how you would have reacted to that news.....that something impossible would happen in your life, like having a baby without any other human involved.

- Do you know how Mary responded?
- She said: *"How can this happen? I am not married!"* (Luke 1:34 CEV)

Mary believed the message that the angel Gabriel gave her but wanted to know how this impossible thing could happen as she wasn't yet married.

- Once the angel told her that the baby would come as a result of God's power upon her Mary said: *"I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said."* (Luke 1:38 CEV)

Two people both given a message from God that something impossible was going to happen in their lives.

One of them.....Zechariah didn't believe the message.

- He thought that it was impossible.

The other one of them.....Mary did believe the message.

- She was willing to trust God that what might be impossible for us is possible for God.

9 months later after the angel had visited Zechariah the impossible happened and his wife Elizabeth had a baby whom they called John.

- 9 months later after the angel had visited Mary the impossible happened and she had a baby whom she called Jesus.
- God was true to His word.....He can be trusted.

I wonder who you are most like..... Zechariah or Mary?

- Are you willing to believe the words that God speaks to you, even though at times they seem impossible?
- I wonder how big your God is.