



# THE WITNESSES

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

## Touched by an Angel - Advent Reflections 2019

*The Cast:*



### **Zechariah (Luke 1:11-22)**

#### **(The Silent Witness)**

**Reason:** God sent the angel Gabriel from His presence specifically to Zechariah to tell him that his marital prayer had been heard and he and his wife, Elizabeth would have a son in the next year.

**Reaction:** Understandably, Zechariah had trouble believing this and questioned Gabriel. He then found himself unable to speak for the next nine plus months until the naming ceremony on the 8th day after his son John's birth.

**Response:** At that moment, after nearly a year of silence, Zechariah's "tongue was loosed" and he began to praise God and tell the story of being touched by an angel and challenged to join God in proclaiming the advent of the coming Messiah.

### **Mary (Luke 1:26-56)**

#### **(The Willing Witness)**

**Reason:** Gabriel identified himself and shared with Mary that she too had been selected by God for a world-altering purpose. Out of all time and space, the Father had chosen her to give birth to the one whose name and purpose would exemplify and bring about the "Lord's Salvation."

**Reaction:** Mary, too, was concerned as to how this could take place since she was a virgin, but Gabriel explained that the Holy Spirit would take care of the "how" because only through the power of God could this happen.

**Response:** Mary chose to leave Nazareth to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah, as well as share her touched by an angel story, but before Gabriel left her, she boldly accepted God's invitation to participate by saying "I am the Lord's servant...May it be to me as you have said."

### **Joseph (Matthew 1:18 - 24)**

#### **(The Obedient Witness)**

**Reason:** Joseph had a hard time believing that Mary could be pregnant without being with a man. He sought a way to end their betrothal and divorce himself from her without shaming her. After making up his mind on a way to quietly do so, but before he took action, God sent an angel to speak with Joseph in a dream.

**Reaction:** When Joseph awoke, he found himself convicted by the message from God through the angel and obediently took her "home as his wife, and had no union with her until she gave birth to a son." Then Joseph gave him the name God decreed: Jesus.

**Response:** While we don't see Joseph shouting his touched by an angel moment from the rooftops, we must only assume he told his story daily as questions arose about his unconventional relationship with Mary.

### **The Shepherds (Luke 2:8 - 20)**

#### **(The Unlikely Witnesses)**

**Reason:** Shining in all God's glory, the angel proclaimed to them that "a Savior has been born" in Bethlehem and "he is Christ, the Lord." He said that if they went to Bethlehem, they would find him in a feeding trough wrapped in strips of cloth.

**Reaction:** Standing in slack-jawed amazement, they decided to go to Bethlehem to "see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about."

**Response:** The shepherds seem to start spreading the news all over Bethlehem. They talked about their touched by an angel moment, and then went to find everything in Bethlehem just as God had said. Afterwards, they returned to their fields praising and glorifying God for the unlikely blessing they were invite to participate in.





**LUKE 1:11-22**

# **ZECHARIAH**

THE SILENT WITNESS



LUKE 1:26-56

**MARY**  
THE WILLING WITNESS



**MATT. 1:18 - 24**

# **JOSEPH**

**THE OBEDIENT WITNESS**



LUKE 1:26-56

# THE SHEPHERDS

THE UNLIKELY WITNESSES