

DECEMBER 8, 2016



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



GENESIS 3:9-15, 28

PSALM 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4

EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 11-12

LUKE 1:26-38

REFLECTION

It is often easy for us to put those we admire on pedestals of perfection, especially when these people are particularly holy. I often forget that even Mary, the Mother of God, had the same hesitations that we all face. In this Sunday's Gospel, we find Mary taken aback by the idea that God chose her, specifically, for this life-altering journey of bearing his only son. Mary questions the angel, who reminds her "nothing will be impossible for God." How true this message is today! We need only trust in God's plan, and he will use us for purposes beyond our wildest dreams! It is only human to doubt in our abilities, but if we are open to being servants of the Lord, he will gift us the abilities to do his work and bring his Kingdom to earth! Complete trust in God is incredibly difficult, but examples like Mary show us that it is possible!



"OCEANS (WHERE
FEET MAY FAIL)"

HILLSONG UNITED

Pay particular attention to the bridge: "Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders!"

ACTION

This week, challenge yourself to spend some time reflecting on where in your life you would like to trust in God even more fully. Perhaps you have a difficult choice ahead of you or you are unsure that a decision you made was the "right decision." These instances are the perfect time to pray for God's guidance and trust in his divine plan! For an example in trusting God's plan even when it sounds crazy, you might want to check out the blog "House Unseen. Life Unscripted" at www.houseunseen.com. Dwija Borobia chronicles her family's move from a typical life in Los Angeles to a house they had never seen before in rural Michigan.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● St. Catherine of Siena said, "Be who you were meant to be, and you will set the world ablaze!" When Mary said yes to God, she was acting how he intended her to be, eventually becoming the Mother of God. Who do you feel God is calling you to be? How will you work to become more of this person?