

Bible and Beer

December 15, 2020

For Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

7 Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; and your throne shall be established forever.

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Brothers and sisters: To the One who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the

revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reflection Questions for Small Group

Questions A

1. Despite the seeming impossibility of the Angel's message, Mary demonstrated her faith and trust in God by her acceptance of God's invitation. Do I say "yes" to God in the small, everyday situations of my life? When the yes is hard, do I ask God for the grace to respond to his call?
2. We are all challenged to help make flesh the Word of God. How do I respond to that invitation? In what ways do I help birth Jesus into the world?
3. Where are the places I have difficulty saying yes to God? How can Mary help me in those places?

Questions B

4. What does it mean to be prophetic? Why is it more than simply predicting the future?
5. How are the two readings both prophetic? What promises are made to David and to Mary?
6. In baptism each one of us are called to be a prophet. What might this look like in your ordinary life?