

# May It Be Done To Me



(Fra Angelico's  
The Annunciation)

## I. A LOOK AT THE THREE READINGS

### FIRST READING (2 Sam 7:1-5,8-11,16)

#### *David wishing to build a Temple*

<sup>1</sup>When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, <sup>2</sup>he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!” <sup>3</sup>Nathan answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.”

#### *God disapproves David’s plan*

<sup>4</sup>But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: <sup>5</sup>“Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?’

#### *God reviews what he has done for David*

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, speak thus to my servant David, ‘The LORD of hosts has this to say: It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you.

*God announces the future greatness of his kingdom*

**And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth.** <sup>10</sup>I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, <sup>11</sup>since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you.

**<sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”**

**THE FOCUS: Announcement of Future Greatness**

### REFLECTION

As leaders of our communities, we may experience successes. These successes may drive us to do more. Like David, we, who are in power or have some authority, want to build big structures “for the Lord.”

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 89:2-3, 4-5)**  
**FOREVER I WILL SING THE  
GOODNESS OF THE LORD.**

**SECOND READING (Rom 16:25-27)**

Brothers and sisters: <sup>25</sup>To Him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ **be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**THE FOCUS: Doxology- God's Greatness**

**COMMENTARY**

The Second Reading comes from the last part of Paul's letter to the Romans.

As usual, Paul follows the pattern of his letters. He puts doxology at the end.

*To him, to the only wise God be glory for ever and ever.*

Take note of the theology of Paul introduced by the relative pronoun "who," followed by three "*according to* s":

<sup>25</sup>Now to him **who** can strengthen you, *according to* my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ (*evangelization*)

*according to* the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but now manifested through the prophetic writings and (*revelation*)

*according to* the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations (*command, law*) to bring about the obedience of faith (*purpose of evangelization, revelation and command of God*) <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory (*doxa*) forever and ever. Amen.

**Further Commentary**

- Paul adds "who can strengthen you."
- Among the many possibilities, Paul uses

"strengthen." The Roman Christians must be strengthened in their faith in God in the midst of confusion.

- The Roman Church which was composed of Gentile converts was not spared from false teachers like the Judaizers.
- The Roman Church which had before majority of Jewish converts had more Gentiles now after the expulsion edict of Claudius (49 AD).
- Faith is the response of Paul's activity and God's revelation.
- All of the missionaries' activities and God's actions are for the glory of God.

**REFLECTION**

God must be acknowledged as the greatest among us all. He deserves all glory and honor. Christian life and activity must be directed towards the glorification of God.

**GOSPEL READING (Lk 1:26-38)**

**Setting**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. (*Six months earlier the angel was sent to Zechariah in the Temple of Jerusalem to announce the birth of John the Baptist.*)

**Greetings and Mary's reaction**

<sup>28</sup>And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." (*Repeats what is referred to David in the First Reading*) <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

**Angel's assurance**

<sup>30</sup>Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (*Repeats v. 28 "Hail, favored one."*)



**Announcement of the birth of Jesus**

<sup>31</sup>Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, <sup>33</sup>and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.“ (*A fulfillment of the promise of God to David through prophet Nathan. Go back to the First Reading.*)

**Questioning**

<sup>34</sup>But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” (*Her questioning does not express doubt, unlike Zechariah. Mary asks the process how it will take place considering she is a virgin.*)

**Answer**

<sup>35</sup>And the angel said to her in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

**Other information**

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month (*Again, six months. Luke is a skillful writer. He follows up his ideas as he develops his story. The focus this time is not on Zechariah, but her fellow woman, Elizabeth*) for her who was called barren; <sup>37</sup>for nothing will be impossible for God.” (*God is an effective intervenor.*)

**Mary’s Response: YES**

<sup>38</sup>Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (*Mary is available. She is willing to cooperate with God’s plan. The translation is correct, “May it be done,” not the one we use in the Angelus which is “Let it be done..”*) Then the angel departed from her. (*Luke knows how to close the story by reporting the departure of the angel.*)

**THE FOCUS: On Mary’s Answer**

**COMMENTARY/REFLECTIONS**

- The announcement comes as a surprise to an unsuspecting young teen-ager from Nazareth.
- What troubles Mary is not the coming of the angel, but the greetings. Mary was not aware that she was “favored one, the Lord is with her.”
- The angel is very good in announcing to Mary.
- Mary will bear a child, not just an ordinary one, but great and son of the Most High One. He will rule Israel for ever.
- Her virginity is not a hindrance to God’s plan for her. God will act on her through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- What is impossible to man is possible to God. (*The healing of Elizabeth’s barrenness and her conception.*)
- The annunciation is swift. Mary believes right away in the message of the angel as coming from God. She does not question the angel’s greetings if it is true that she is a favored one or the Lord is with her.
- She must have interpreted Elizabeth’s pregnancy in her old age as God’s intervention. Mary is not surprised when the angel brings this out in the annunciation.
- The angel comes and goes.

**II. TYING THE THREE READINGS TOGETHER TO DEVELOP YOUR HOMILY/SHARING**

Announcement on the future greatness of David (First Reading).

Doxology to God (Second Reading) who strengthens (**announced** through evangelization, revelation and laws).

Annunciation of the immediate birth of the Messiah (Gospel Reading).

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**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!**

