

# SERMON TOPIC: The Joy of Letting Go

## SERMON SUMMARY

The sermon focused on the theme 'Hope for the Holidays,' exploring the life and character of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The message emphasized the joy and peace that come from letting go of our own plans and embracing God's plan for our lives. Through the story of Mary, who was an ordinary young girl used by God in an extraordinary way, the sermon highlighted the importance of seeking God's favor over personal fame, His presence over our own plans, and His glory over our personal goals. The sermon encouraged the congregation to submit to God's will, just as Mary did, and to find true satisfaction in His presence.

1. God's favor is about His presence with us, not our fame.
2. True joy and peace come from embracing God's plan over our own.
3. Mary's story is a powerful example of discipleship and submission to God's will.
4. God's presence is the greatest blessing we can have.
5. Jesus is the ultimate gift, bringing hope and salvation to all.

## KEY VERSES

1. **Luke 1:26-38**
2. **John 20:25-27**
3. **Exodus 3:12**

## QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to be 'highly favored' by God?
2. How can we seek God's favor over our own fame in our daily lives?
3. What are some ways we can prioritize God's presence over our own plans?
4. How does Mary's response to the angel's message inspire you in your faith journey?
5. What are some goals you have that might need to be surrendered to God's glory?
6. How can we find joy in letting go of our own way and embracing God's way?
7. In what ways can we make God's fame known through our lives?
8. How does the story of Mary challenge you to trust in God's plan for your life?

## LIFE APPLICATION

This week, identify one area of your life where you need to let go of your own plans and trust in God's plan. Pray for the courage to submit to His will and seek His presence in that area.