



# An Unlikely Vessel

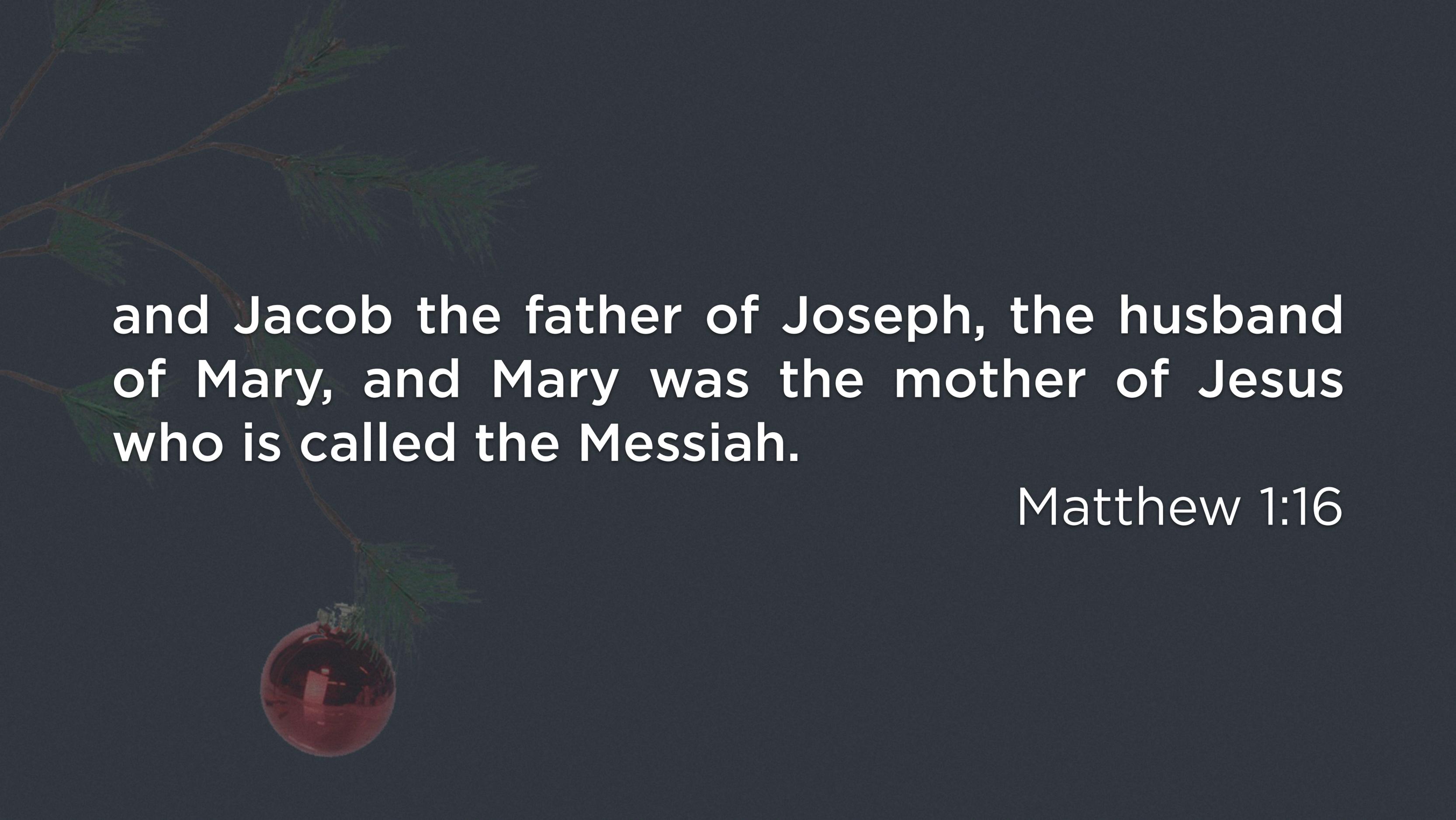
Steve Norman



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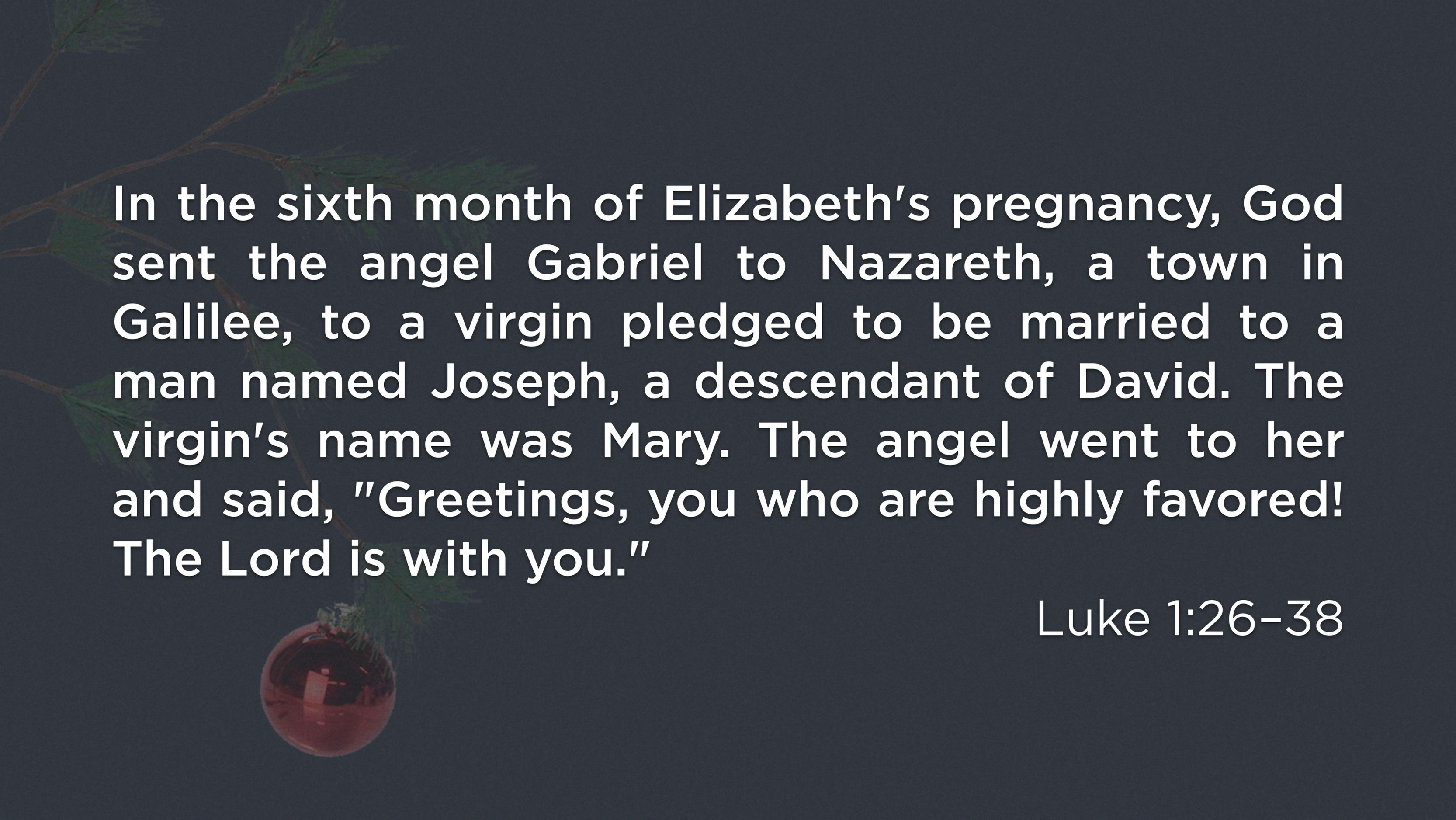
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and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband  
of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus  
who is called the Messiah.

Matthew 1:16

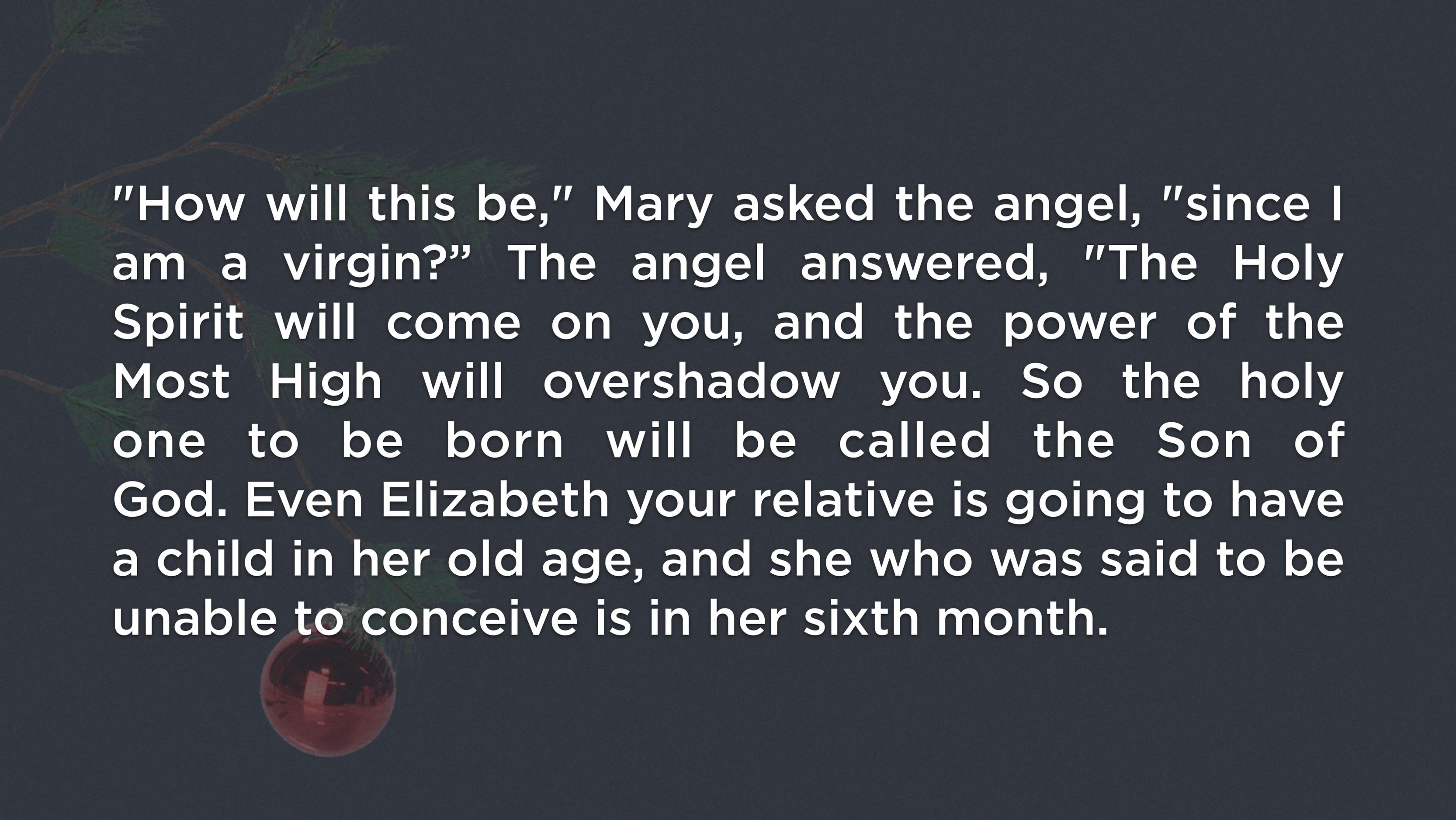
A dark, textured background featuring a pine branch with green needles and a single red Christmas ornament hanging from it. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

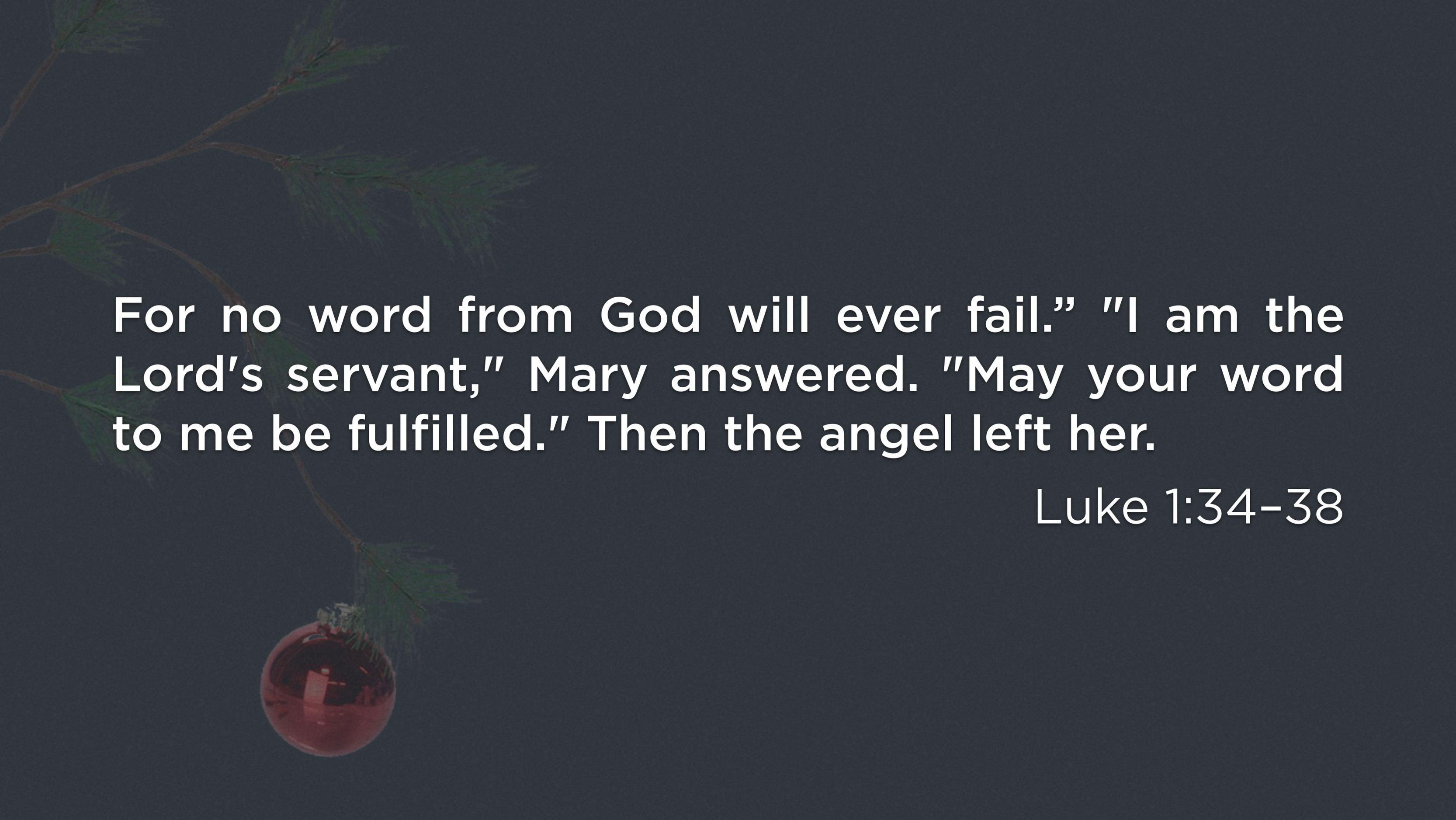
Luke 1:26-38

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:29-33



"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.



For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:34-38



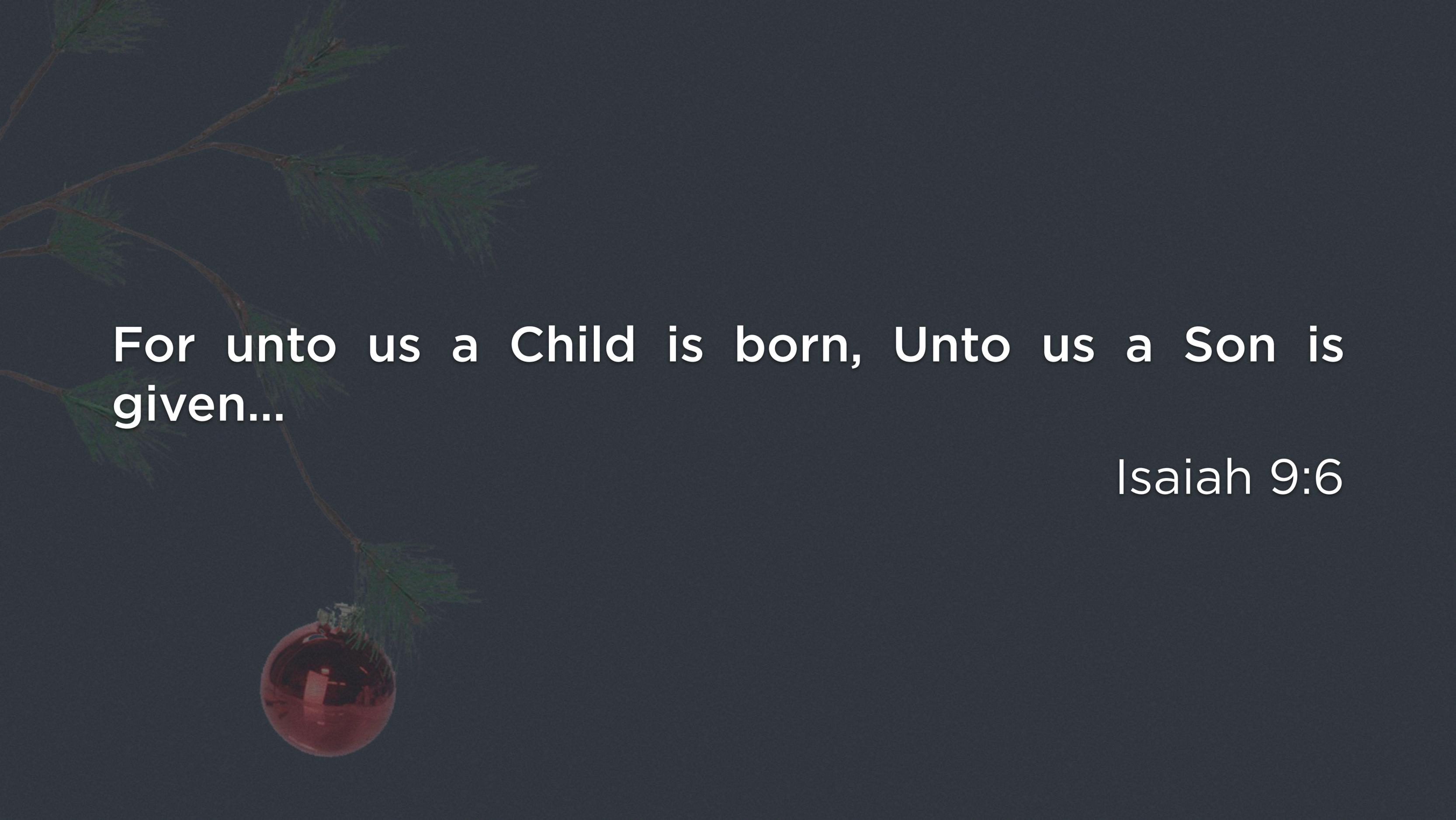
**God uses unlikely people  
for incredible work.**



**Submission: Submit my mission to God.**

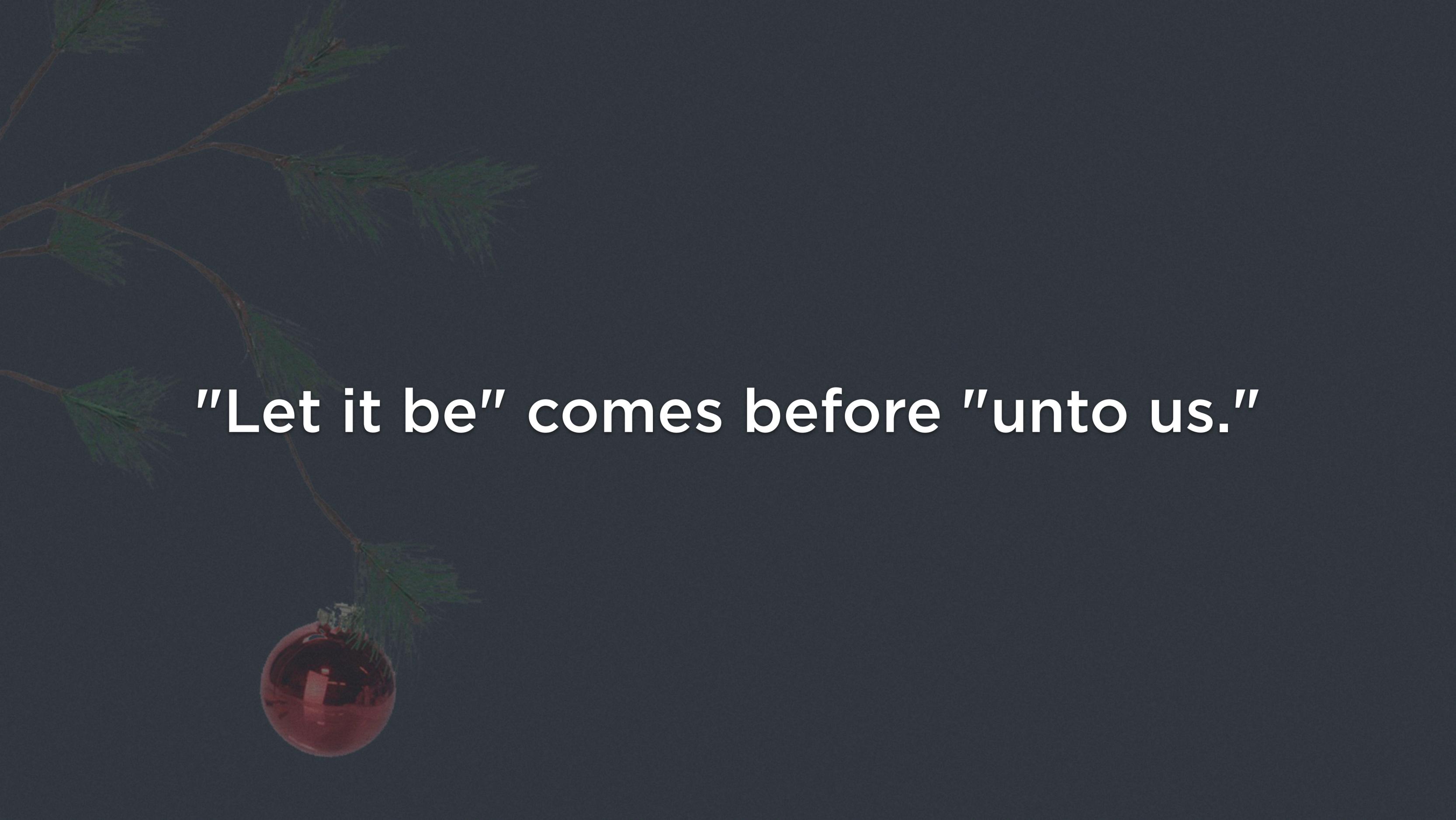
A dark blue background with a pine branch and a red ornament on the left side. The pine branch is green and has several needles. The red ornament is a shiny, spherical ball hanging from the branch. The text "Cooperation comes before celebration." is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**Cooperation comes before celebration.**

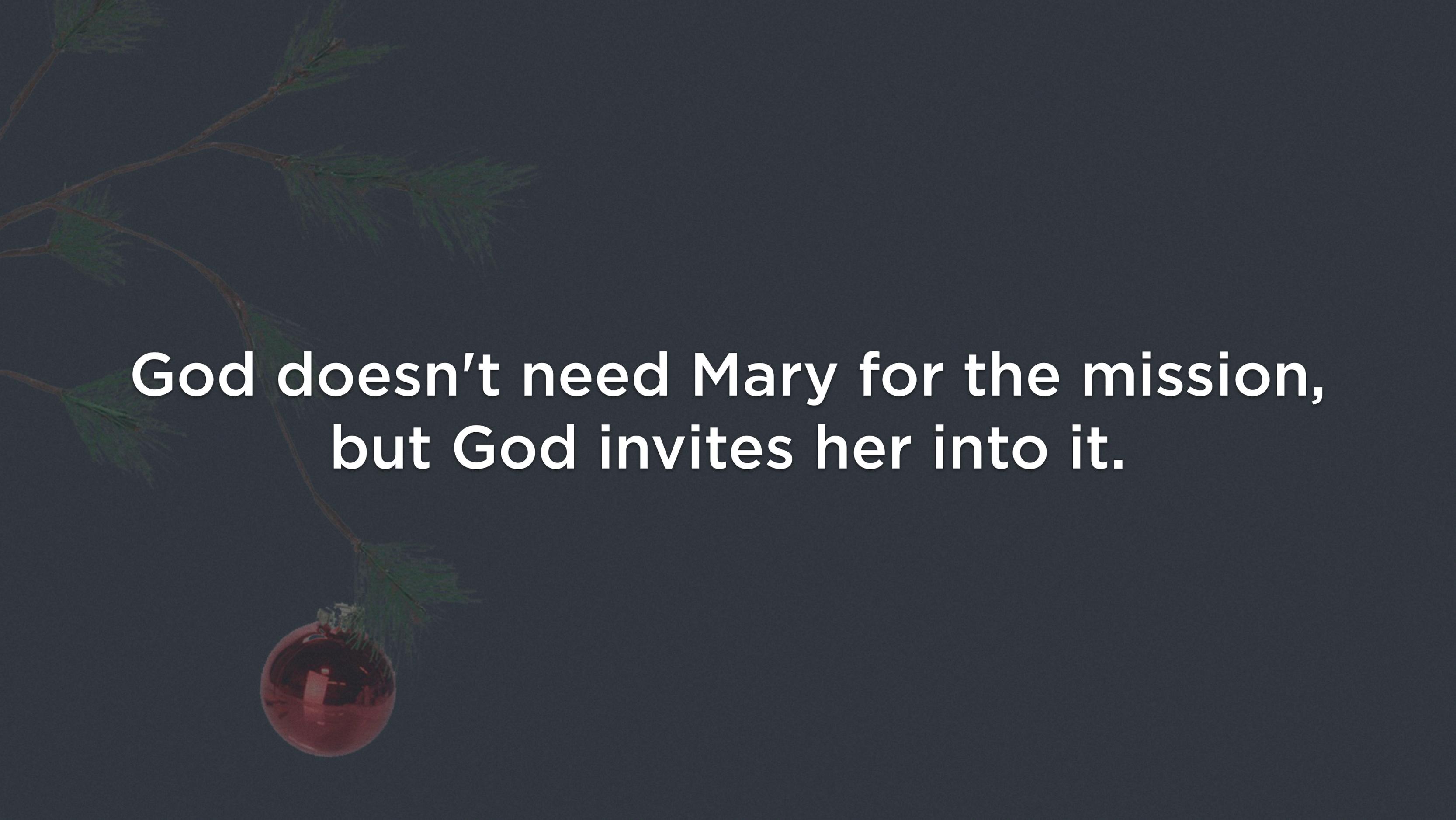


For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is  
given...

Isaiah 9:6

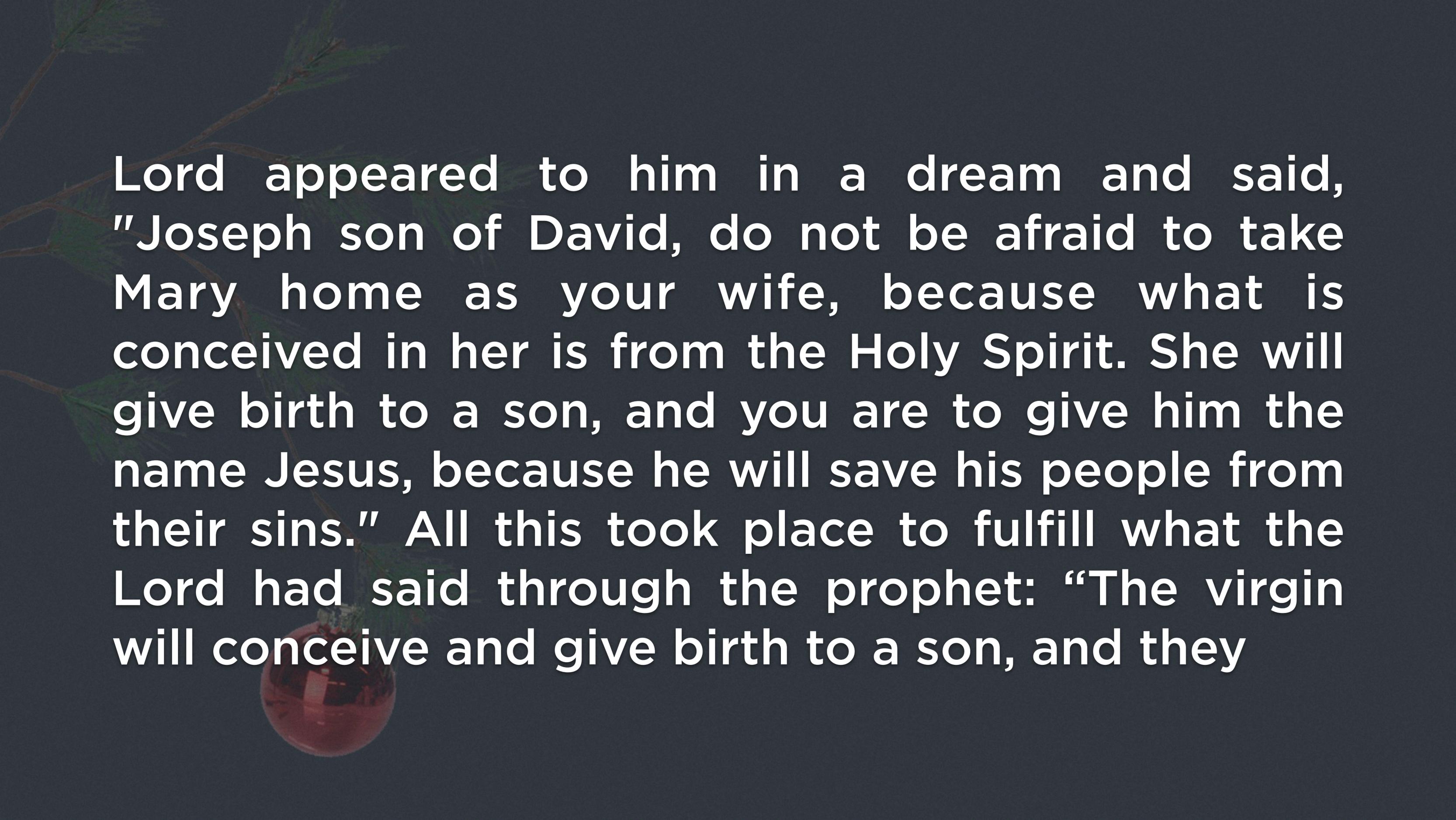


"Let it be" comes before "unto us."

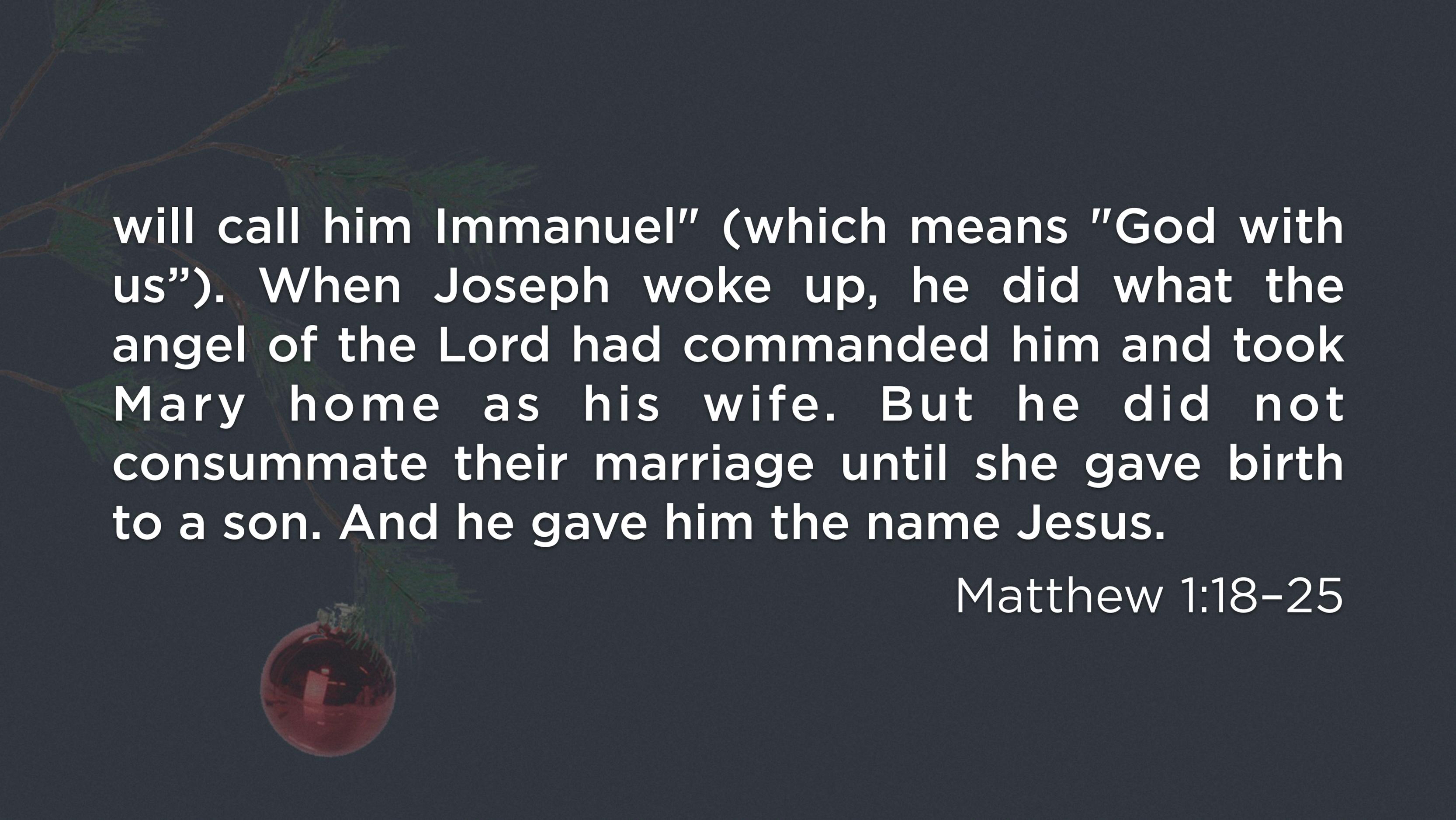


God doesn't need Mary for the mission,  
but God invites her into it.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the

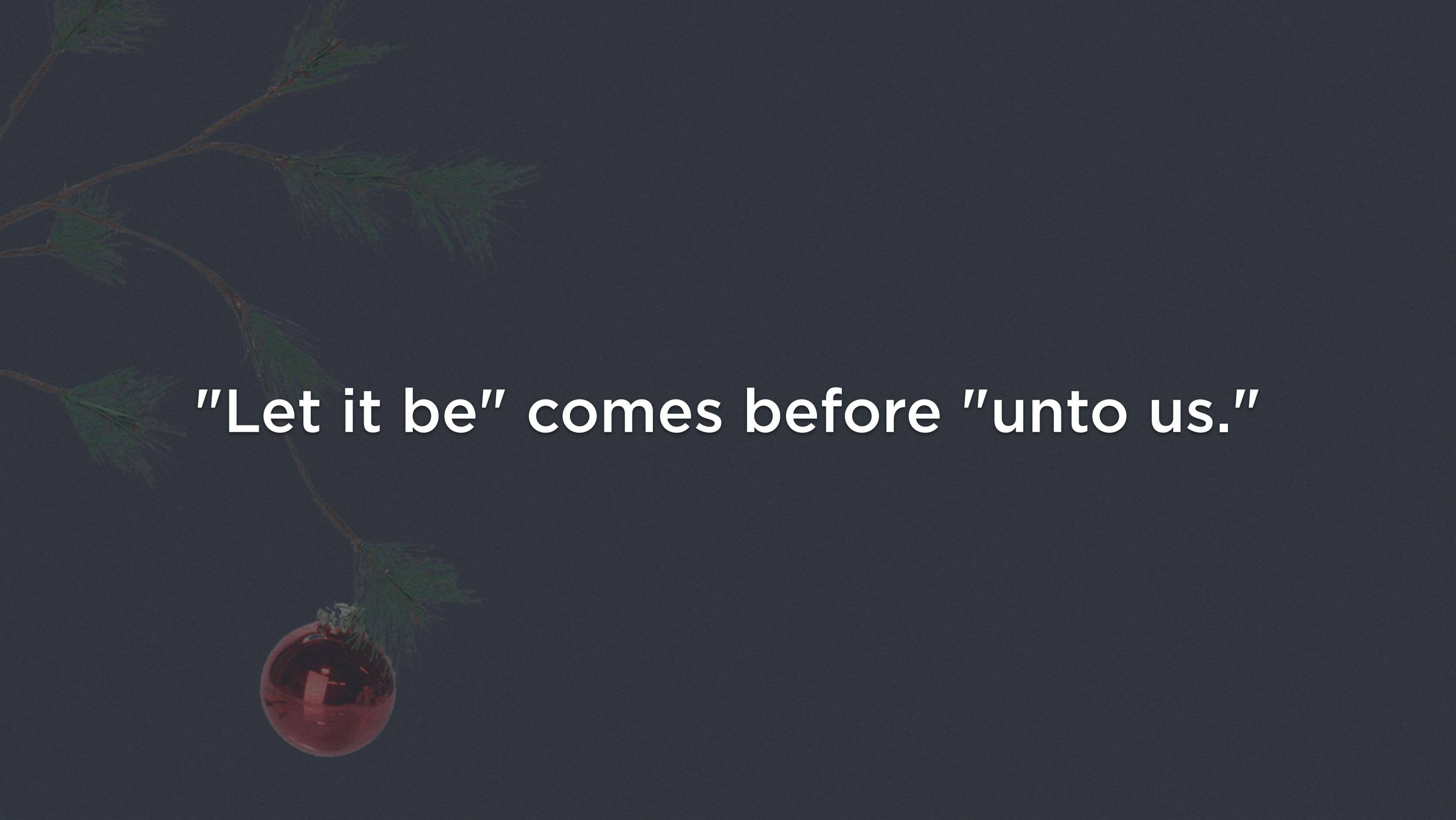


Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they

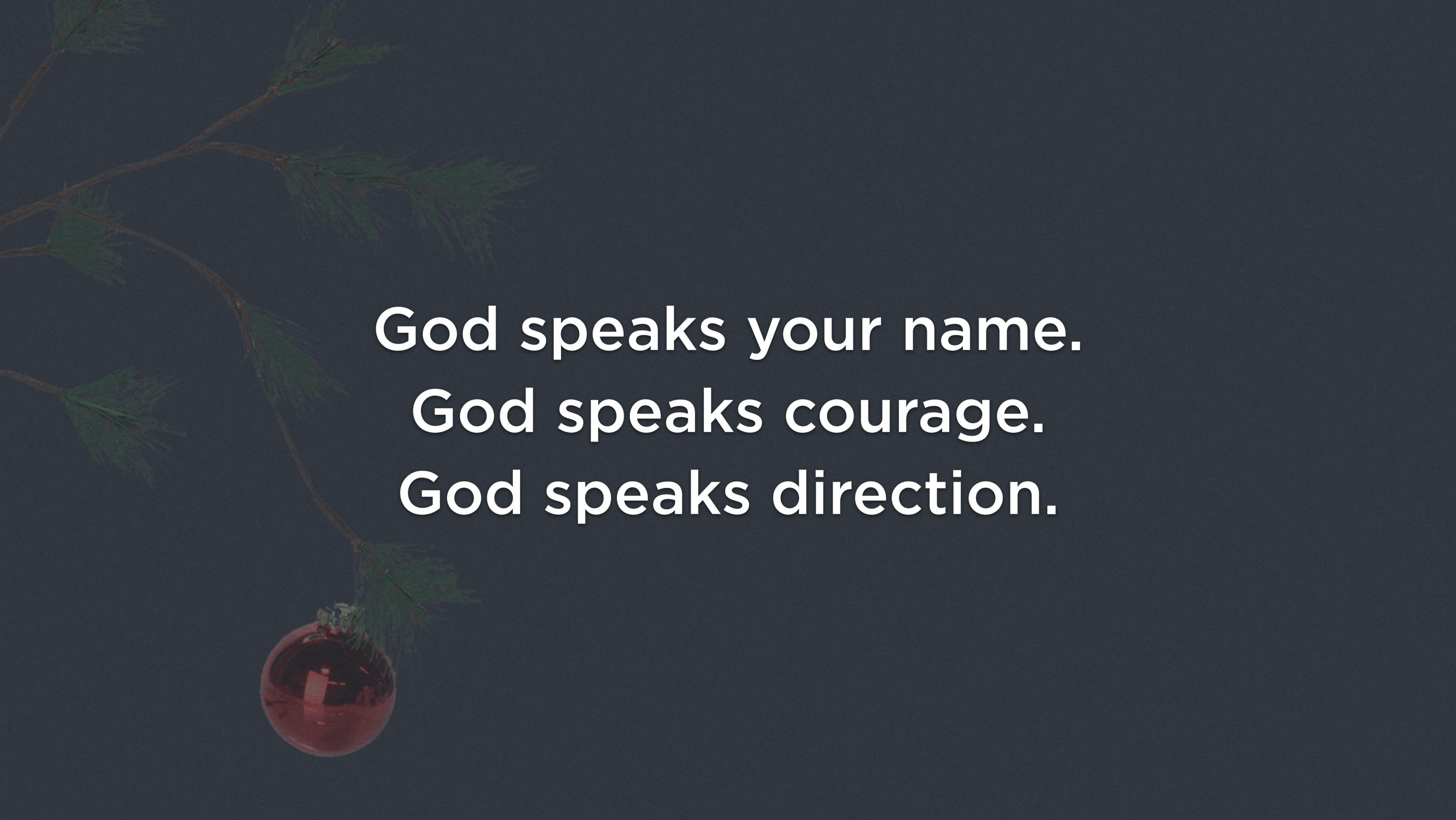


will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25



"Let it be" comes before "unto us."



God speaks your name.

God speaks courage.

God speaks direction.

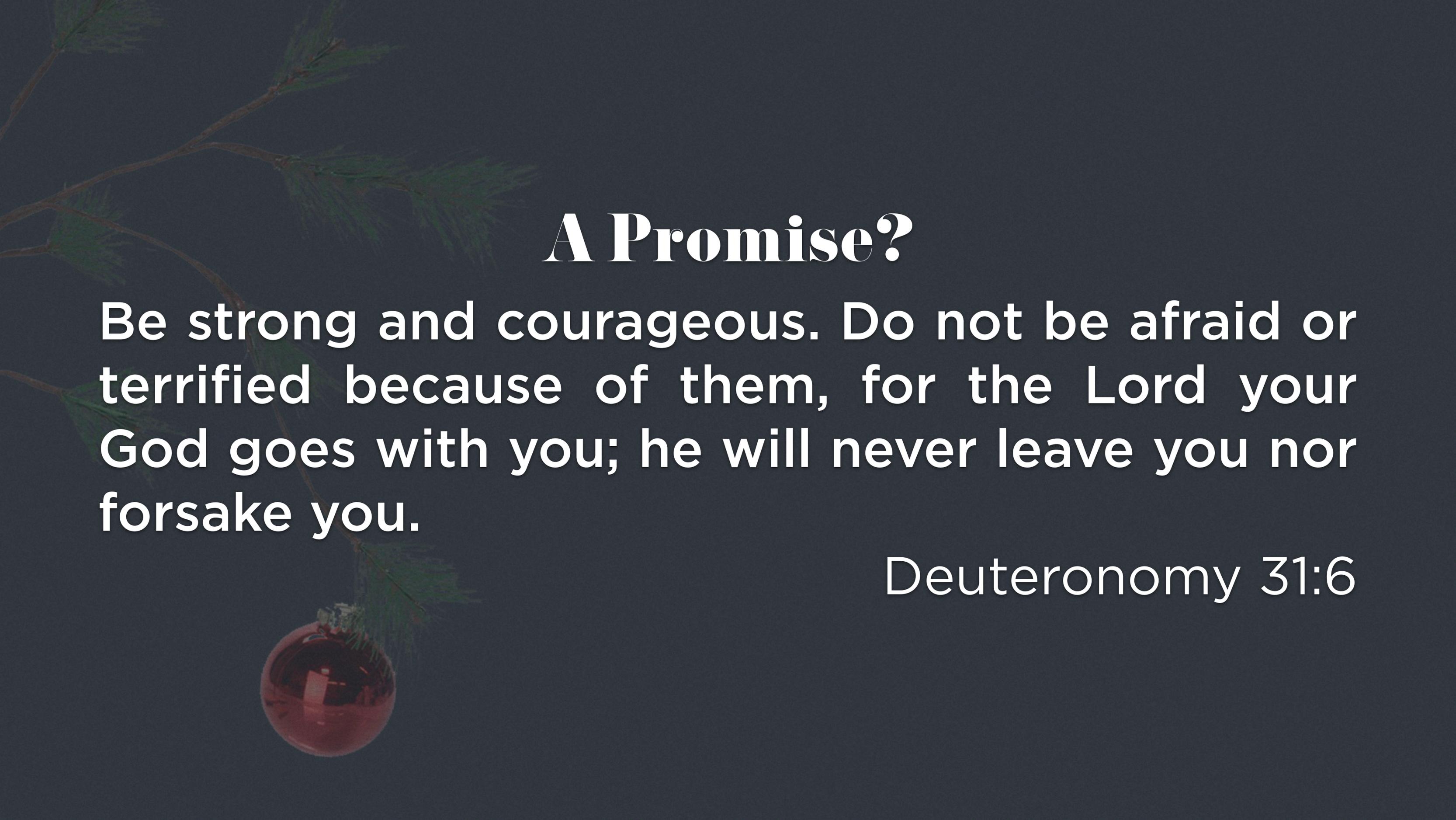


**What do you need to hear this  
Christmas?**

# Your name?

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary."

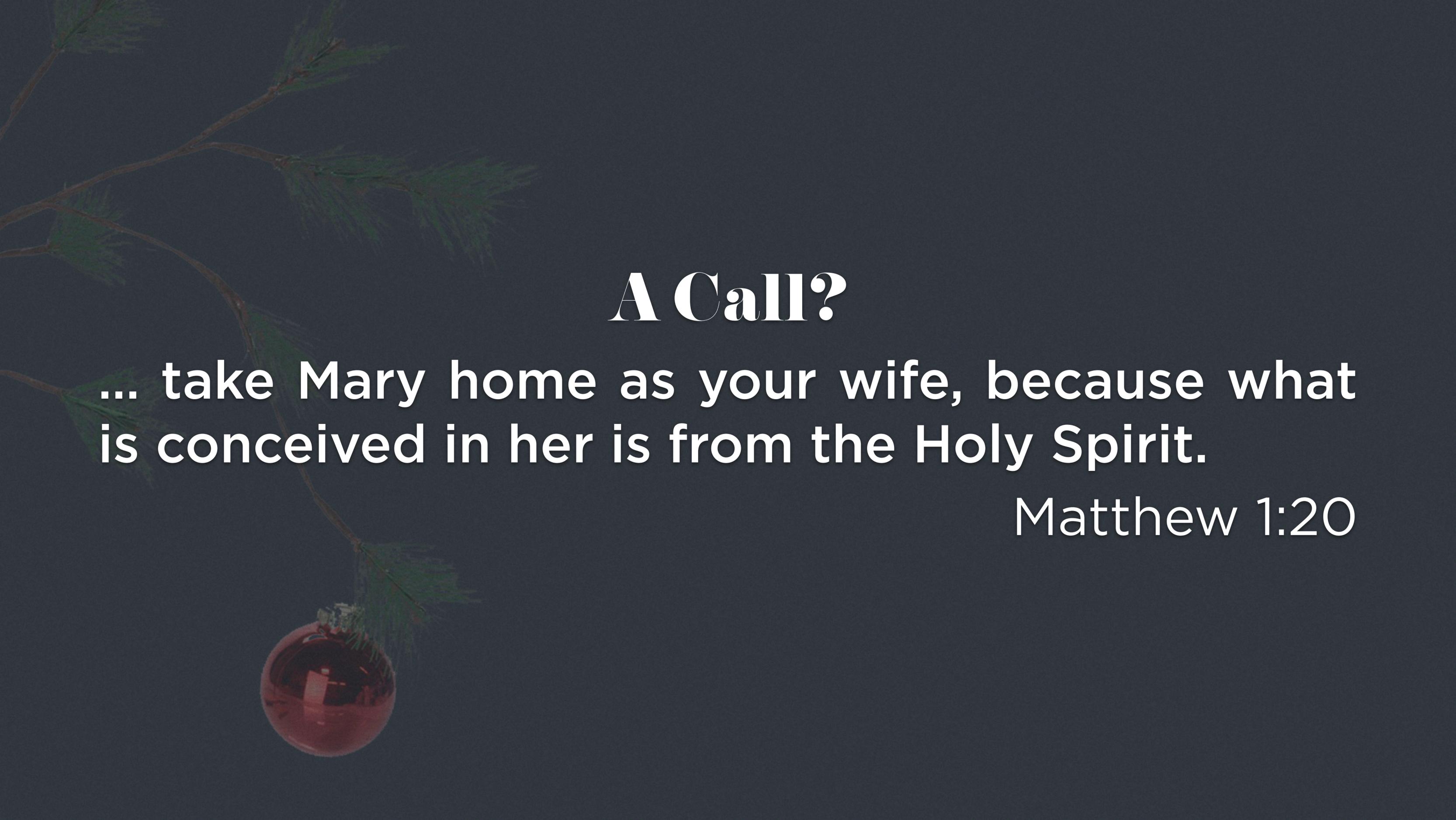
John 20:15-16



# A Promise?

**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.**

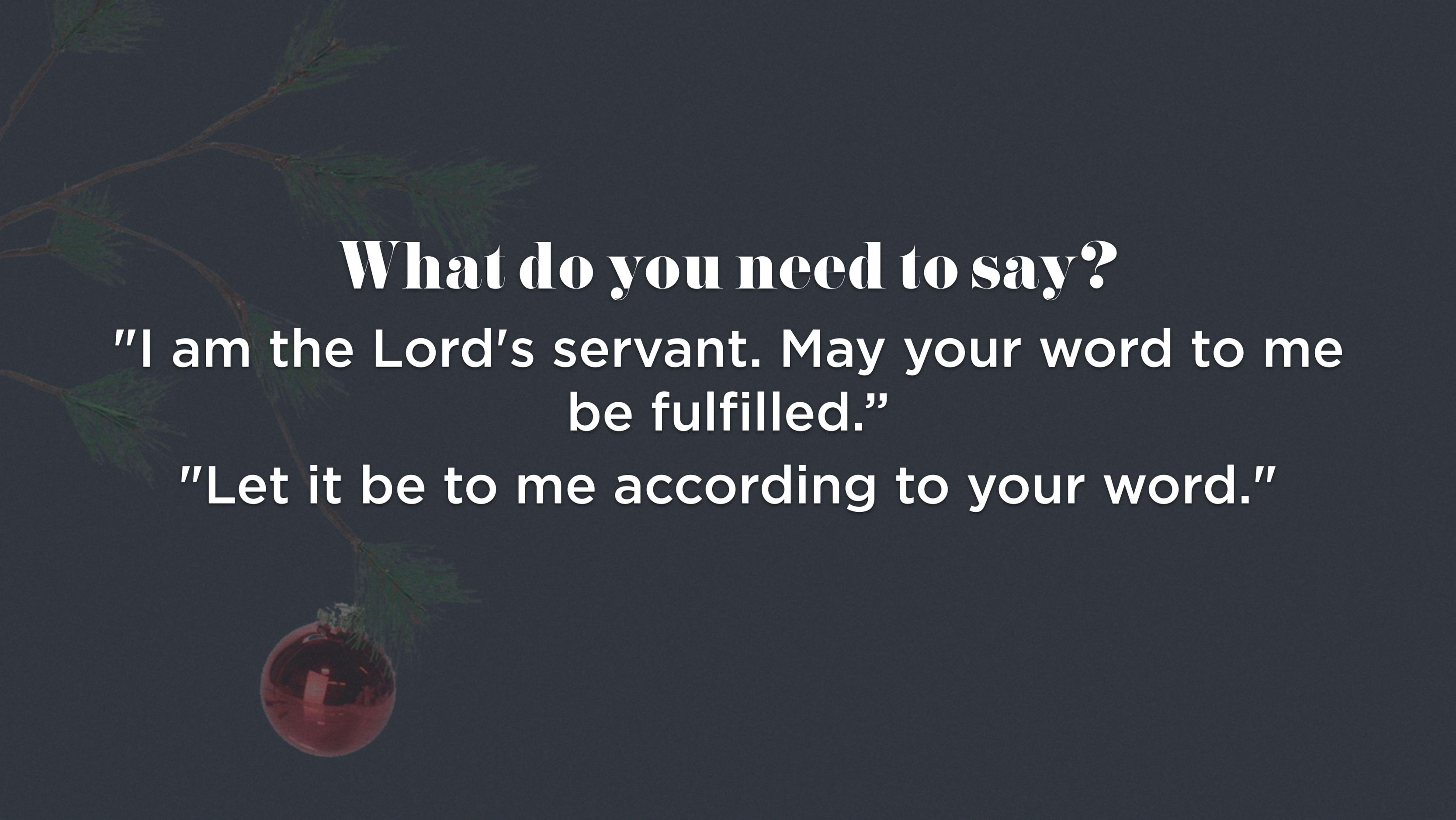
Deuteronomy 31:6



## A Call?

... take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:20

A dark blue background with a pine branch and a red Christmas ornament. The pine branch is on the left side, and the red ornament is at the bottom left. The text is centered in white.

**What do you need to say?**

**"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me  
be fulfilled."**

**"Let it be to me according to your word."**



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