

In today's Gospel we hear the event known as the Annunciation ... whose feast is March 25. We all know the story - the Angel Gabriel comes to Mary, she responds, and the rest is history.

I'd like to focus on a nuanced aspect of this reading and yesterday's reading.

Yesterday's reading was again from Luke's Gospel; but was when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah to announce the coming birth of John the Baptist - who was Zechariah's son.

When the announcement is made to Zechariah, he says:

*How shall I know this?*

*For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.*

In other words, he confronts Gabriel, and Zechariah's focus is on his own understanding - which he then spells out for the Angel ... in other words: It ain't gonna happen.

In reward for his openness to God's Will, Zechariah is struck dumb for 9 months and his tongue is only loosed when he is asked to name his son.

When the announcement ... the Annunciation ... is made to Mary, she says:

*How can this be,*

*since I have no relations with a man?*

No selfishness, no self-focus ... only awe and wonder. She knew where babies came from, and so asks an obvious question.

Two ways to approach God's Will ... two ways to approach God's plan to work miracles in our lives.

Do we accept with wonder and awe - or do we oppose and confront God's Will?

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for an openness to God's Will ... and for the spirit of docility that will enable us to receive the miracles that God has in store for us. May we always expect a miracle - trusting in God's plan for our lives and living our lives according to God's Will.