

# Contemplation on the Incarnation (Ignatius of Loyola)

## Part 1

13 The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; 14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. (Ps. 33)





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## Part 1

Imagine Father, Son and Spirit gazing down from heaven upon all the people on earth: "men and women being born and being laid to rest, some getting married and others getting divorced, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad, so many people aimless, despairing, hateful, and killing, so many undernourished, sick, and dying, so many struggling with life and blind to any meaning."





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## **Part 1**

**What catches God's attention on earth as they contemplate this scene?  
What catches your attention? What do you hear, smell, taste, touch as  
you enter this scene?**

**What does God see when he looks at you on earth in this scene?**





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## Part 2

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”  
(Genesis 1)





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## Part 2

Imagine Father, Son and Spirit now discussing with each other what they've seen on earth. Sitting at a table of three chairs.





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## **Part 2**

**How might the Father's comments be unique in contrast to Jesus' or the Spirit's?  
Jesus? Spirit?**

**If you were eavesdropping, unable to hear specific words, but able to hear tone,  
what might be the tone of the conversation you hear?**

**What options might they put on the table as a way of responding to what they've  
seen?**





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## Part 3

20 Christ was chosen before the world was made, but he was shown to the world in these last times for your sake. (1 Pet. 1:20 NCV)





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## Part 3

Imagine Father, Son and Spirit now deciding to respond to what they've seen by sending Jesus to the earth to be born as a human child and to live, forever, as fully human and fully divine, and to die and be resurrected, as fully human and fully divine.





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## **Part 3**

**Where did this idea come from? When did this idea arise?**

**What might have been Jesus' reaction?**

**What do you think they penciled in as the first step in this plan?**

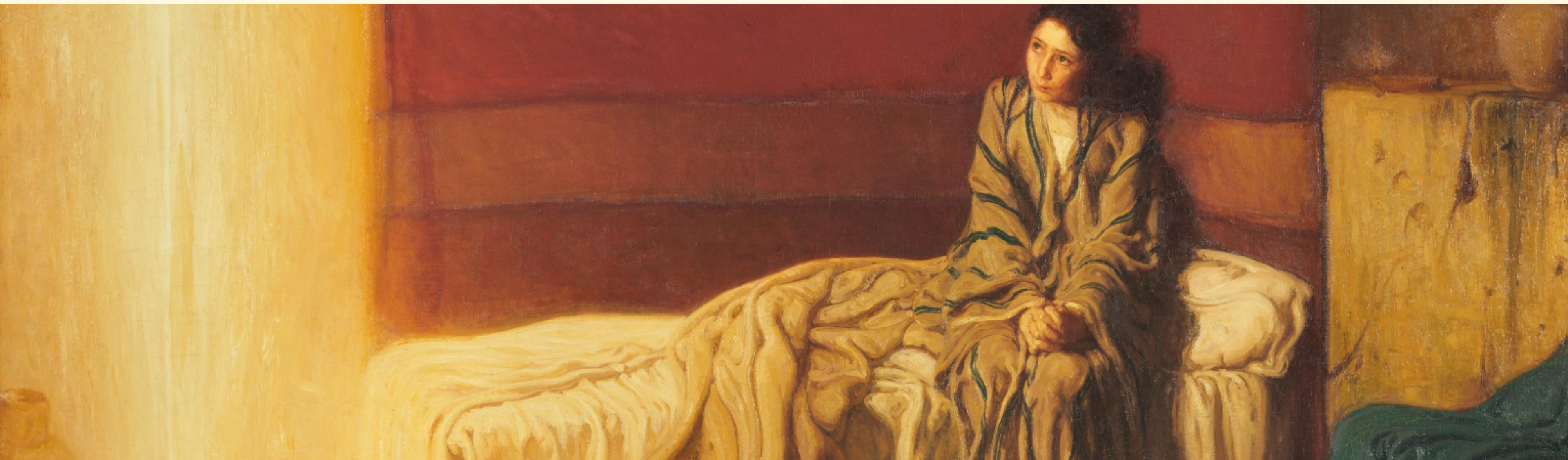




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## Part 4

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (Lk. 1)

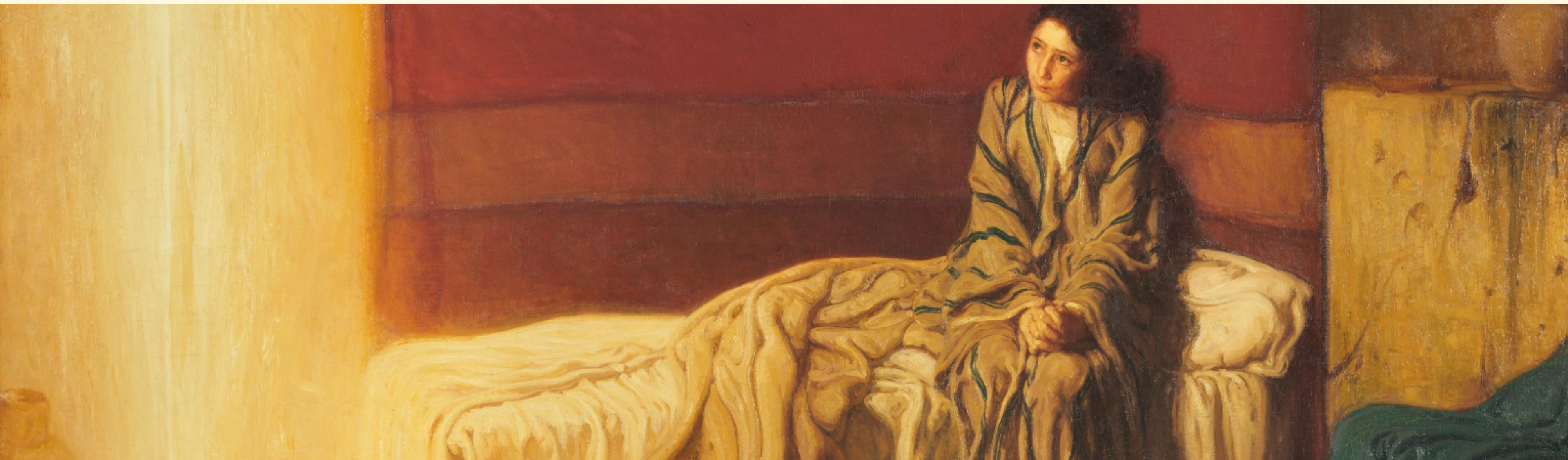




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## Part 4

Picture now the Gospel scene of Gabriel being sent to Mary with the news of this plan.





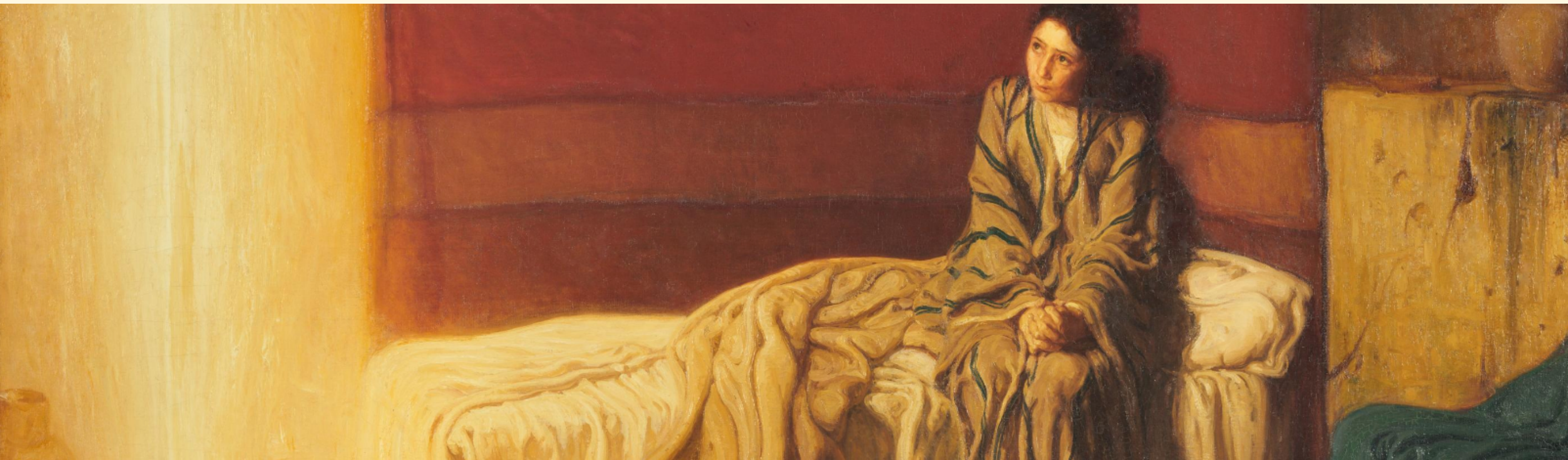
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## Part 4

**What is Gabriel feeling/ thinking?**

**What is Mary feeling/ thinking?**

**"But she was greatly troubled at the saying ... And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?' ... And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word' --- which of these responses resonates with you?"**





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## Part 5

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Lk. 2)





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## Part 5

Picture now the Gospel scene of Mary giving birth to Jesus.





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## Part 5

**What do you hear/ smell/ touch/ see?**

**What is Joseph feeling/ thinking?**

**What is Mary feeling/ thinking?**

**What is Jesus feeling/ thinking?**

**What is Father/ Spirit thinking/ feeling?**





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## Part 6

Return now to the scene from heaven as Father, Spirit (and Son?) watch this scene with Gabriel and Mary play out, as they also continue to take in the whole of humanity on earth:

**What is God thinking/ feeling?**

**What is God thinking/ feeling as he, through time, sees you?**

**What is your response to this? Take a moment to silently respond to God.**

