



DON'T BE AFRAID: GOD HAS A PLAN

Matthew 1:18-25

- *“This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.”* (Matthew 1:18-19)
- **Joseph and Mary were a young and newly betrothed couple living a simple life with simple expectations for their future.**
- *“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”* (Ephesians 3:20)
- **God has long ago set a different path for our lives than what we would have planned for ourselves.**
- *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”* (Ephesians 2:10)
- **Many times our lives go differently than we plan them, and we must learn to trust in God’s plan and path.**

We Learn From This Story That:

DISAPPOINTMENT IS A PART OF LIFE

- *“Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.”* (Matthew 1:19)
- **Joseph was disappointed that his engagement to his future wife would not work out according to the customs and norms of the day.**
- **Many times our plans and hopes for our future do not work out and we have to wrestle with broken hearts, broken dreams, and a broken spirit.**
- *“The Lord hears His people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.”* (Psalm 34:17-19)

- **What are some disappointments that I've experienced in my life?**

We Learn From This Story That:

GOD'S PLAN DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE SENSE

- **God is far more concerned with our character than our circumstances.**
- *"As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:20)*
- **Fear often follows uncertainty about the future.**
- *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5-6)*
- **Joseph and Mary both had to walk down a path that made them look foolish to the world around them.**

We Learn From This Story That:

GOD IS NOT LIMITED BY NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- **We often limit God's solutions to our problems based upon what we think He can do with what is currently available.**
- *"This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:18)*
- **God has historically won impossible battles, collapsed impenetrable walls, made the sun stand still, rained down fire from heaven, separated a sea, and placed His child within a virgin.**
- *"O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for You!" (Jeremiah 32:17)*
- **God's power knows no bounds including the limitations of nature.**

We Learn From This Story That:

GOD IS NEVER SURPRISED

- The Angel - *"All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet! 'Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:22-23)*
- **The circumstances and situations of our lives might surprise us, but God has always known what was coming.**
- *"Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of His understanding." (Isaiah 40:28)*
- **Nothing has ever occurred to God, because He already knows everything that will occur.**

We Learn From This Story That:

WE MUST TRUST GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST

- The Angel - *"And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)*

- **God's plan not only considered what was best for Joseph and Mary, but also what was best for all of humankind.**
- **Christians throughout history have sacrificed their own benefits and interests in order to lead the world that God loves back to Him for salvation and eternal life.**
- *"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- ***Do I trust that God to follow Him when my life's circumstances are confusing, challenging, and difficult?***
- **Joseph made the decision to trust the Lord and we need to be willing to make the same decision when facing the Lord's calling for our lives.**
- *"When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus."* (Matthew 1:24-25)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how can I apply it to my life?***