

Make Him Room ...Room for his timing and Strategy to come to fruition...

Do you know why so many people struggle at Christmas...Somehow we have had it driven deep into our collective cultural consciousness that Christmas is supposed to be for the happy people. For those with idyllic family situations. Christmas is for healthy people who laugh easily, The successful and the beautiful, the blessed, we should easily enjoy the holidays. Because we should have Holiday Cheer... This is how we should be enjoying Christmas.

But this is backwards. the great story of Christmas is of the incarnation of **the Rescuer**—This Rescuer is for everyone, especially those who need a rescue. Christmas is the good news for Jesus was born as a baby to know the pain and sympathize with our weaknesses. Christmas is really about the gospel of grace for sinners. Because of all that Christ has done on the cross, the manger becomes the most hopeful place in a universe darkened with hopelessness. In the irony of all ironies, Christmas is for those who will find it the hardest to enjoy. It really is for those who dislike it most.

Jesus succinctly sums up his rescue mission in:

Luke 19: <sup>10</sup> "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

And like all rescue missions when an enemy is involved...there has to be undercover and covert actions employed, misdirection, misinformation, and deception employed. All of which serve to keep the enemy off target and misled.

**So it is vitally important For us to MAKE ROOM FOR HIM...to make room for the INFORMATION We DO NOT CURRENTLY possess... To make room in our thinking for the reality there is MORE strategy and planning GOING ON THAN YOU HAVE understanding of ... **Make room for not knowing God's plan of rescue in your crisis!!!!****

**There are strategic reasons why God...who could do anything...would choose to have his son :**

- **...born to a young woman, morally suspect...pregnant and pledged...but not married? and Why not to the most godly married couple with the husband being an up and coming rabbi the phi beta kappa of his theological university ...with his own thriving synagogue and in line for the high priest hood?**

- **But to a carpenter...who has already planned months earlier on divorcing his unfaithful bride?**
- **Then make this eight month pregnant woman travel to Bethlehem from her home in Nazareth, so she could give birth in a barn...rather than at least in her own home**
- **And why he has his son born in a palace instead of a lowly barn cave...really why?**
- **And Why was the birth announced to Shepherds and not one the High Priest at the Temple or any religious leaders?**
- **And why God directed foreign Maji...star readers..... to find the baby two years after his birth? Why wait?**
- **Surely God could have orchestrated the star that led them in a more timely fashion? but the timely fashion was when the expensive gift of gold would support them in their flight to Egypt...to avoid the slaughter of the toddler boys in Bethlehem...**

**And it all has to do with There being an enemy of God and man who must be kept off balance by the moves of God in fulfilling His word and promises...**

**So let's see this play out in the life of Joseph...the fourth and last player in the family of Zechariah , Elizabeth , and Mary**

- **As God often does he called a couple..but he started with one...mary ...now to bring her future husband Joseph into the loop...**
- **Now Joseph had already been prepared....as his lineage is from the tribe of Judah... and the root of David ...as prophesied in the Old Testament..**

**We pick this up in Matthew's Gospel**

*MT 1:16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah. <sup>17</sup> All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.*

**God is a Genius...if you were the enemy who also has access to the word of God ... you would know three things...**

- **It started with Abraham...He was the root of the Hebrew nation...fourteen Generations later from Abraham's son Isaac whose son Jacob whose son Judah....would come the lineage of David...**

- And 28 generations later would come Jesus...do you have any idea how many sons of the lineage of David that would be? a whole lot!!!
- That would keep the enemy totally engaged in trying to keep track of a lot of people...from whom the Messiah could possibly be born...and he would obviously keep track of the supposed most promising sons in the lineage of David...
- He overwhelmed him...how !!
- Scripture does not explicitly say there would be 28 generations from David to the time of the Messiah...just a little detail that was told after the fact!!
- So every generation the enemy has to keep very busy ...but off balance and frustrated...

**Then bam! One day ...**

*MT 1: 18 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>MT 1:20</sup> <sup>20</sup> As he considered this.....*

- These two verses do not begin to address the emotional devastation, relational conflict and inner conflict that Joseph and Mary would experience in the explanation Mary would give to Joseph upon her return after three months away visiting Elisabeth.
- At this time Mary who would have been pledged and considered legally married to Joseph though not officially wed ...and pregnant...and not by him..
- Now ....We can only imagine the stress Mary was under....adultery was an offense which could be punishable by death...
- Saying yes to God is sure paying off...
- Most people can deal with beginning stress...and still have faith...
- It is when it continues that the depth or lack there of is revealed...

**Will we say yes when it all goes sideways? Was Mary's yes to God request as strong now as it was earlier? Now that it appears her choice to follow God is costing her greatly...**

- **And Joseph** would be highly emotionally stressed, disillusioned, powerful and justified feelings of betrayal...

- His whole world and future ...blown up in his face....Mary had an affair on Him and is now pregnant... and her story!!
- Mary certainly would have told him happened...which he probably dismissed outright in his mind was she not only an adulterer but a liar also...
- We are not given a time line... So his wrestling with this situation could have taken days, or weeks ...

And he would have to make some choices...

\*\*\*We are told of a Character trait of Joseph... Joseph was Righteous... by profession a carpenter not a man of nobility ...though of the line of David... But by Character a Righteous man...this character trait is highly prized in the kingdom of God!

What exactly is Righteousness ?...Righteousness is doing that which is right in the eyes of God righteousness is not just running away from sin...righteousness is chasing after that which is the right thing to do in the eyes of God in a particular challenge...

\*\*\*What Does righteousness look like.....

1. \*\*\*First of all Righteousness is Prayerfulness...No doubt Joseph prayed fervently. What do I do??? He sought the will of God in prayer.... and the Lord was silent
2. Which takes us to the second characteristic of Righteousness ....Righteousness is considerate ...which means he was thoughtful....he would consider what would be the right thing to do... considerate people don't act out of emotion...
  - So the first thing he did was to do nothing. He 'considered' the situation. For days, or even weeks ...we are not told..... who knows?
  - The moral for us: when you have to make a difficult decision, don't be in a hurry: more mistakes are made by haste than by delay.
  - He would consider...that he and Mary both lived in the same town. They were brought up in the same community. They both lived in Nazareth...they had family and friends...what was the bigger picture here...

- How would consider that Mary had been honest open and truthful her character had always been blameless
- He needed to think this through....**He thought before he acted...**
- **That is always the right thing to do...**

### 3. He considered his options...

#### option 1

1. he could expose her and make her a public disgrace. After all he was wronged!!! And had a not only a cultural right but a religious right to seek Justice, to get even...maybe even a little revenge! And Joseph would have considered doing that very thing!
2. And Joseph would have considered doing that very thing, but his love and his compassion for Mary would not permit that kind of severe treatment.

#### Option 2

1. He could have stayed with her...and tried to forgive and carry on with the relationship.... And Joseph would have considered doing that very thing! And apparently that was not going to work for him...

#### Option 3

1. He could protect her life, even if she had betrayed him. He loved her what would be gained by destroying someone he loved...
2. And I am sure he also thought about the child she was carrying and it's future...

**His choice of option Three reveals Another character quality of Righteousness**

#### 4> Righteousness includes Humility...

- Joseph was Humble... Humble men have a great advantage over other men...
  1. They don't have to defend their pride...nor do they have to claim personal territory to fight over... they are not slaves to The you better respect me attitude...
  2. So they don't have to react to people or situations!!! Which enables them to seek God as to a response...  
**they don't react they respond!** Which means they are willing to give God the final say.....
- Humility means we do not condemn...Joseph knew all are fallible...

- He was humble...he did not condemn Mary even when he perceived he was deeply wronged...He did not return hurt for hurt showing he could act as carnal as He thought she did...

- So Joseph decides to quietly...not slander or shame her nor seek revenge, not playing the victim card seeking sympathy,...he will simply release her from her vow.
- With the decision probably came a deep restful sleep...

Then God intervened...

*MT 1:20* <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup> "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.'"

**I have a question ...Why did God wait to give him his plan until after Joseph came to a good and righteous decision...could have saved a lot of time...mental agony...emotional anguish...relational upheaval...**

- Would it not have been easier and a whole lot less traumatic for Mary and Joseph for the angel Gabriel to stand alongside Mary as she breaks the news to Joseph?
- Or even have the angel do the talking?? He done it twice already..
- And how about Zechariah and Elizabeth showing some support making the trip back to Nazareth coming along to cushion the blow and be there for support and comfort... ???
- and why did God let him toss and turn for however many nights it took him to come to this decision?

**I will tell you what I think! A person has to be able to Minister to themselves if they are ever going to reach the destiny God has for them...**

- Your heart has to be able to convince your mind what is the right thing to do!!!
- Your head will take you lots of places negatively...and you yourself have to mature to the place of giving yourself good counsel...

- If you cannot do it in with what you are dealing with now..., you will in no way be able to make right decisions in the greater challenges...
- **So God let Joseph wrestle with Joseph to do what is right ...and this righteous man proved his righteousness as shown by His Godly decision...**

### **Hearing God in a Dream is one thing... walking it out in reality is another...**

- So how do we do that...one step at a time...through one opportunity at a time... Joseph took Mary Home...they continued their engagement..

*MT 1: 24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25 But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.*

### **So how do we make more room for God in what appears to be Crisis?**

#### **1. Don't let what you can't do or understand, keep you from doing what you can... and he could Obey!!**

all Joseph had to do was marry Mary.

- following God is always one step at a time
- he did not focus on his good and legitimate excuses
- He knew obedience was best now...
- The future will take care of itself....He did not know how to raise the son of God...but he would learn...he could work and he could be a good husband...now...
  - He was willing to obey, which means he was willing to live with uncertainty...
- He would live with a greater purpose then he had ever thought possible!! And so can you!!
  - What challenge or opportunity are you facing right now?
- and in the big picture...the enemy would certainly not look closely at this couple...who would appear to have fallen short of all the outward qualities of the earthly parents of the Messiah...it would completely throw off the enemy...

1 Samuel 16:7 ....**The Lord doesn't see things *the* way you see *them*. People judge by outward appearance, but *the* Lord looks at *the heart*.**"

**make room for God in your life and His's strategy and in your crisis!!!!**

