



Mary's Christmas
Be Strong (Part Two)

Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-24

Objective Sentence: *Everyone can make a difference in their world by following in Mary and Joseph's footsteps.*

Introduction: *Unrealistic Expectations often lead to discouragement and there are many who have abandoned their faith in God because they faced things that they didn't think they were going to face.* **Oswald Chambers:** *It is not true to say that God wants to teach us something in our trials. In every cloud he brings, God wants us to unlearn something. God's purpose in the cloud is to simplify our belief until our relationship to him is exactly that of a child. God uses every cloud which comes in our physical life, in our moral or spiritual life, or in our circumstances, to bring us nearer to him, until we come to the place where our Lord Jesus Christ lived, and we do not allow our hearts to be troubled*

Read Matt. 1:18-25

- #1. **Be Strong** (*Matthew 1:19 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—put her away secretly*)
 - A. **John Calvin:** *Whatever sort of tribulation we suffer, we should always remember that its purpose is to make us spurn the present and reach out to the future.*
1. **Count the Cost** (*Luke 1:47-49 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name*)

- a. **Luke 1:46-55** “*Mary’s Song*” *does not reflect an inclination of the trial she would face because of Christ*
- b. **Pastor Dan:** The first Christmas did not feel like it does today with all our holiday celebration, giving of gifts and the warm happy feelings of joy. The first Christmas was plagued with shame, humility, fear and anger (**Matthew 1:18-19**). Mary was found to be pregnant ...
- c. **Pastor Dan:** One of the greatest challenges to our faith that we face in life is dealing with our emotions when things do not turn out the way we thought they were going to turn out.
- d. **Matthew 16:24-25** Peter rebuked Jesus—One of our big problems is that we try to pull God our way instead of allowing Him to pull us His way.
- e. **Sequence of events:** **Luke 1:26** Angel appears to Mary in Nazareth with the annunciation that Mary would conceive a child by the Holy Spirit; **Luke 1:39** Mary goes to Judea to help her elderly relative Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist; **Luke 1:56** Mary remains in Judea for three months and returns to Nazareth and is beginning to show that she was pregnant, telling Joseph at that time what happened to her; **Matthew 1:19** Joseph did not believe and sought to divorce her.
- f. **Pastor Dan:** Joseph plans to divorce Mary. He did not want vengeance but neither did he want marriage. **Matthew 1:19** put her away secretly
- g. **Pastor Dan:** How did Mary survive the trial? There is an anointing of power present in proportion to need presented **1 Peter 4:14** **If you are reproached for the Name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.**

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- 2. **Stand firm** (**Pro.3:5-7** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your steps. ...*)
 - a. **1 Corinthians 10:13** Things don’t always turn out the way we think
 - b. **Matthew 1:19** **Pastor Dan:** Joseph wanted to divorce Mary. He believed that Mary she had been unfaithful and the evidence confirmed his suspicion. He was not irrational or vindictive; he was thoughtful, compassionate and loving but he was also a man of honor and integrity.
 - d. **Ps. 37:23** The steps of a good man are ordered of the and he delights in His way. Though he fall he shall not utterly be cast down for the Lord upholds him with His right hand....
 - e. **Is. 41:10** Fear not for I am with you; be no dismayed for I am your God. I will help you I will strengthen you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand ...
 - f. **Is. 43:1** Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you, and through the rivers they will overflow you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned; neither will flames scorch you. For I am the Lord your God—the Holy One of Israel your Savior.
 - g. **Ps. 3:1** Many are those who trouble me. Many are they who say of me there is no help for him in God ... they will not overflow you
 - h. **1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses
 - i. **Chinese Proverb:** A gem is not polished without rubbing, nor a man made perfect without trials

Closing Thoughts and Invitation: **Matthew 1:20-23** Mary was not successful in convincing Joseph that she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. But God has a way of showing up when we need him most. If God is not appearing in your present circumstance then you have not reached a point of needing supernatural His intervention in your life. God moved in Joseph's life in such a way as to cause him to believe that the Lord impregnated Mary through the Holy Spirit in order to bring the Savior of mankind into the world. God does not allow us to be tempted beyond that which we are able to bear. Neither does He challenge us without supplying His help.