



*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: John MacArthur:** No issue is more important than the virgin birth to our understanding of who Jesus is. If we deny that Jesus is God, we have denied the very essence of Christianity. Everything else the Bible teaches about Christ hinges on the truth we celebrate at Christmas—that Jesus is God in human flesh. It is not an optional truth. Anyone who rejects Christ's deity rejects Christ absolutely.... **Is. 7:14** The Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel **Is. 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace **Mic. 5:2** But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel whose going forth are from of old, from everlasting

**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, <sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup>for 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**;
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.
  - c. *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.
  - 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. 3:1-6** 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
- j. **Tommy Barnett:** I am learning to make troubles my servant. I am also learning to see situations that challenge my ability as opportunities to see God empower my feeble efforts. God doesn't allow us to be tempted beyond that which we are able. Neither does He challenge us without supplying His help.
- i **Matthew 1:20-23** **Pastor Dan:** Mary was totally ineffective in convincing Joseph that which had really happened to her. But God has a way of showing up in our lives when we need him most. If God is not appearing in your present circumstance then you have not reached of place of needing supernatural intervention.

*Closing and Invitation: There When You Need Him Apr. 23rd* The departure date for my first missions trip was approaching, but right before I left a series of events occurred which tested my faith. Mr. Johnson, the finance manager of our church walked through the office and said to me, "I hear you're going to Haiti. Hope you're not flying Pan Am. A jet crashed in Dallas yesterday and killed several people." My tickets had just arrived so I looked at them and sure enough – I was flying Pam Am.

One day I called the missionary who arranged the trip and his wife answered the phone. My friend wasn't at home so I asked his wife what she thought about the country. Mrs. Missionary replied, "I hate Haiti. That island is inhabited by a hostile bunch of thieves. You can't depend on a one of them and you'd be a fool to trust anyone there." After hanging up I thought, "I wonder how she really feels." She truly discouraged me. Then on top of that, the reigning government of Haiti had been overthrown and several people had been killed in the rebellion.

In spite of my grave concern I boarded a plane in Miami and headed for Haiti, believing the Lord was leading me. While preparing for take-off, smoke began pouring into the cabin, and the people panicked, trying to get off. The flight attendants got control and we were immediately evacuated. After three hours of waiting on repairs, we were put back on that same plane. We taxied to the runway only to return for more work and more bad news. We were now five hours late and Haiti's airport closed at night. At that point I started to get off that flight. How could I get to the mission station in the middle of the night? What if the Haitian Pastor didn't show up? All I had was an address – 40 Delma Street – Port-a-Prince. "Lord," I prayed in silent fear, "if Pastor Sorrell is not at the airport, don't let this plane leave Miami." After some time we began moving and the pilot announced, "We're cleared for take-off."

We made it to Port-a-Prince and everything inside the small airport was chaotic. I felt lost, not knowing one word of Creole. A man claiming to be a taxi driver approached me. He spoke English and offered to transport me to my destination. The words of the missionary's wife echoed in my mind, "Don't trust anyone!" After going through customs I waded timidly into a crowd of noisy people outside the terminal. When I got in the middle of the throng I yelled, "Is Pastor Sorrell here?" Everyone got silent for a moment, looked at me, turned away, and resumed talking.

The press of the crowd forced me towards the street and there I saw a little man holding a sign. When he saw me, the only white man in the crowd, he asked in broken English, "Are you Pastor Tuppin?" "Pastor Sorrel?" I asked. "Yes," He replied. I grabbed that little man and held him close. The weight of the world suddenly lifted from my shoulders. God is always there when you need Him.