



Chaos to Christmas: Mary & Joseph
Matthew 1, Luke 1
Dec 20th, 2020

Luke 1:26-37, Matthew 1:18-25

Mary asked two questions: Why me? How is this possible?

The first enemy of Joy is Fear.

God's response to Mary:

"You have been chosen by God for His purpose."

"Nothing is impossible with God."

Joseph asked two questions: Why me? How is this possible?

God's response to Joseph:

"You have been chosen through God's promises."

"The Holy Spirit is guiding."

The second enemy of Joy is Anxiety.

Mary submitted. Joseph obeyed.

The response to the enemy of anxiety and fear is trusting in God.

Mary and Joseph experienced Joy because they both Believed.

1 Kings 19:11-13, Matthew 10:27, Psalm 46:10

Slides

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Luke 1:26-37 NLT In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. ³³ And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!" ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail."

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Matthew 1:18-25 NLT 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: ²³ "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.'"

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Mary asked the question: "Why me?"

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God's response: "You have been chosen by God for His purpose."

Mary asked the question: "How is this possible?"

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God's response: "Nothing is impossible with God."

The first enemy of Joy is Fear.

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Matthew 1:19-20 NLT 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. ²⁰ 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.

The second enemy of Joy is Anxiety.

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Joseph asked the question: “Why me?”

God’s response: “You have been chosen through God’s promises.”

Joseph asked the question: “How is this possible?”

God’s response: “The Holy Spirit is guiding.”

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“Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of every detail of my life. That gives me joy. It is the quiet confidence that ultimately everything will be alright. It may not all be all right, right now, but God is in control, and he is going to work it out. Ultimately, everything will be all right. Joy is the determined choice to praise God, or honor God, to thank God, in all things. That is a whole lot different than just feeling good. Joy is a choice. Joy is a character. Joy is commitment. God wants you to live a joy filled life.”

- Kay Warren ‘Choose Joy’

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You cannot be stressed out, be an emotional wreck, tense, nervous, worried, scared, afraid... and joyful at the same time.

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Luke 1:38 NLT Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

Mary submitted.

Matthew 1:24-25 NLT 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.

Joseph obeyed.

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The response to the enemy of anxiety and fear is trusting in God.

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Mary and Joseph experienced Joy because they both Believed.

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1 Kings 19:11-13 NLT “Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but

the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Matthew 10:27 NLT What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

Psalms 46:10 NLT "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."

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Christmas Eve Candlelight service: Night of Calm.

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**What fears are stealing your joy this Christmas?
What are you anxious for this Christmas?**

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