

When Jesus is involved
Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-10
December 10, 2017

What must have gone thru the mind of Zacharias and Elizabeth?

Even more so, Joseph and Mary and the people around them, what about their family?

In the next few weeks we will look at the birth of Jesus and what happened after, today though what led up to it, the thoughts of those going thru it and some thoughts for us.

What emotions/thoughts would you have had if you were Mary and Joseph? You are about to get married, you are both Godly people, pure (virgins) and you find out that you are having a child, the son of God, nonetheless.

What goes thru your mind? "I don't have time for this?" "What will people think?" "How can I escape?" "Why now, I'm about to get married, this ruins everything."

I imagine an array of emotions come over them, but notice their response in total. Mary said, *"Let it be to me according to your Word."* Luke 1:38. Joseph's response, *"Being aroused from his sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus."* Matthew 1:24-25

What might our response be if our life is "interrupted" by Jesus?

As children of God:

1) Our life is His.

- a. All lives are His, though not all are His Children.
- b. We have no life (physically or spiritually) without Him.
He has literally given us both physical and spiritual life.

In the beginning God...So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **Genesis 1:27**

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:15**

- c. When we realize our life is His then true growth takes place. We place all of who we are into all of who He is.
- d. Mary and Joseph realized their life was not their own but God's.

2) We can yield to His plan or try ours.

- a. Yielding to His plan gives much blessings and benefit. However, it is not promised that it will be easy, without struggle or pain. (John 16:33)
- b. God's plan will always unfold, the big choice is do we trust and obey (follow Him) with it or do so begrudgingly? What did Joseph and Mary do? Elizabeth and Zachariah?

- c. Also do we “run” and try our way? What if Mary and Joseph had run, not trusted God and not listened to the angel?
- d. When we go our own way we miss out on God’s best, God’s plan and it always impacts others with our decision.
- e. Mary and Joseph yielded to the Lord.

3) Bought with a price.

- a. *For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.* **1 Corinthians 6:20**
- b. *You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.* **1 Corinthians 7:23**
- c. *I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.* **2 Corinthians 6:18**
- d. *Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.* **1 Peter 2:11**

4) God’s plan doesn’t always make sense, to us.

- a. God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows. **~Timothy Keller**
- b. *His ways not our ways and his thoughts not our thoughts.* **Isaiah 55:8-9**
- c. I’m sure God’s plan didn’t make sense to Mary and Joseph, but they trusted Him.

Do we really believe that our life is God’s? Do we?

Do we believe that God owes us something or how we want things done?

Do we see God working in our life, when it’s not what we want or expected, as His plan and control?

The best “present” that we can give to God this Christmas is our self, either for the first time or as a reminder.

God was looking for two willing participants to carry out His plan. What a blessing and yet what a struggle it was, but how rewarding!

Prayer Focus:

- I would recognize my life is not my own.
- God is in control.
- This Christmas I would see myself being given to God,

Blank check