



WHEN LIFE DOESN'T TURN OUT AS PLANNED

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin **pledged to be married** to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name is MARY. LUKE 1:26-27

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was **pledged to be married to Joseph**, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. MATTHEW 1:18

Have you ever been **surprised** by God's presence only to be **paralyzed** by what He might be asking you to do?

THE BIG IDEA: Trust God with your life, even in the chaos

"We must be ready to allow ourselves to be **interrupted** by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important task." - **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

When they heard these things they were not offended, neither did they say, "The thing is hard to understand, He should save his people? And now He saves not even himself, but we must escape, and be far from home. **The facts are contrary to the promise.**" -- **JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

THREE TRUTHS I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON...

1. WHEN I DON'T KNOW _____ GOD _____

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" LUKE 1:34

- **LIKE MARY, I HAVE THINGS IN MY LIFE THAT SEEMS _____**

With God nothing is impossible. LUKE 1:37

The angel answered, "**The Holy Spirit will come on you**, and the **power of the Most High will overshadow you**. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. LUKE 1:35

2. WHEN I DON'T KNOW _____ GOD _____

The **angel** went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are **highly favored!** The Lord is with you." **Mary was greatly troubled** at his words and **wondered** what kind of greeting this might be. LUKE 1:28-29
In a loud voice she exclaimed: "**Blessed are you among women** and blessed is the child you will bear! But **why am I so favored**, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? LUKE 1:42

LIKE MARY, I CAN BE _____ AT GOD'S PLAN

- **Mary was** _____

Mary was **greatly troubled** at his words... Luke 1:29a

Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man **and did not want to disgrace her publicly**, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. Matthew 1:19

- **Mary was** _____

...and **wondered** what kind of **greeting** this might be. Luke 1:29b^[SEP]

- **LIKE MARY I HAVE MY SILENT NIGHTS**

..... Then the **angel left her**. Luke 1:38b

- a. Don't confuse God's _____ with His _____

- b. When you hear God's **SILENCE**, and feel His **ABSENCE**, Trust His _____

"The **virgin will be with child** and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**"—which means, "**God with us**." Matthew 1:23

3. **WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S _____ GOD _____**

Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him. MATTHEW 2:13

- **LIKE MARY I CAN CHOOSE TO SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL**

Then Mary said "**Here I am** the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "**May your word to me be fulfilled**." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38

BOTTOM LINE: The "facts" always change, but God's _____ and _____ never change!

Resources used in message preparation:

John Chrysostom: St Joseph and the Flight into Egypt

IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament 2nd edition, by Craig Keener

ESV Archaeology Study Bible by John D. Currid