

JESUS- OUR REWARD OF COURAGEOUS FAOTH

Introduction

If we look at the Christmas story from the perspective of Mary and Joseph, the news of Jesus' birth had to be the most confusing and difficult time of their lives- a time that required an unbelievable step of faith from both of them. They faced a critical choice: would they follow conventional wisdom and react with logic and reason, or would they put their faith in God and take a courageous step of faith?

Scripture for study

Mary's Story- Luke 1:26-38

Joseph's story- Matt. 1:18-24

Message Outline

The Story of Mary

- Why Me?
- What the angel says is impossible.
- This will ruin my life.

The Story of Joseph

- How can a virgin give birth to a child?

The Story of Us

- Will you align your priorities with God's priorities?
- Will you adopt God's perspective on your circumstances?
- Will you trust God's plan, even if you don't understand?

Discussion Questions

1. Share a time in your life when you had to make a courageous step of faith. Why did you have to do this? What was your biggest fear? How did everything turn out?

2. What do you think your reaction would be to an angel that appeared to you and spoke to you?

Jesus, Our Reward of Courageous Faith

3. Make a list of reasons why Mary should have been a poor choice to be Jesus' mother. Why do you think God chose her? What does this say about the possibility of YOU being chosen to do something special for God?
4. Make a guess at how the conversation went when Mary told Joseph that she was pregnant, and the father was the Holy Spirit. What emotions do you imagine both of them had individually? Do you think there was shouting? Tears? Threats? How do you think the conversation ended?
5. Make a guess as to why God directed an angel to visit Joseph in a dream and not in person. What would be the pros/cons of each method of visitation?
6. Has God ever asked you change the priorities of your life to match His priorities for you? How?
7. How can someone learn to interpret their life circumstances from God's perspective instead of their own?
8. Why do you think God refuses to show us all the details of His plan for us at the start of the process?

Review and Reflection

Always remember that God rewards a courageous step of faith. Mary and Joseph are living proof. And if you step out in faith and follow God's lead, He will reward your faith, too.