



Message Three: *Home Alone* ***Pastor Mike Chapman***

Genesis 2:18, *It is not good for man to be alone.*

Psalms 142:4, *Look around me and see. No one cares about me. I have no place of safety; no one cares if I live.*

Loneliness is one of the most desolate words in the human language. It is capable of hurling the heaviest weights the heart can endure. Crowds often only makes it worse. It is the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted – of being deserted.

Today we are going to look at the lonely person in the first Christmas story and how he discovered purpose, peace, and passion.

JOSEPH AND THE CHALLENGE OF LONELINESS

Joseph faced situation after situation in which he must have felt alone.

In **Nazareth** -- Betrayed by one whom he trusted.

Matthew 1:19-25, *Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately. When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to*

take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: "Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will name him Emmanuel," which means "God with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus. NET

In **Bethlehem** -- Overwhelmed by personal responsibilities.

Luke 2:4-7, So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. NET

In **Egypt** -- Fleeing out of fear to escape danger to his family.

Matthew 2:13-14, An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to look for the child to kill him." Then he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and went to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. NET

JOSEPH BELIEVED EMMANUEL

Joseph believed what the angel had told him – that God was with him.

He **acted** on his belief.

James 2:26, A body that doesn't breathe is dead. In the same way faith that does nothing is dead. GW

Joseph believed and made a decision to act.

Joseph's actions were a direct consequence of his faith.

GOD IS WITH YOU! GOD IS FOR YOU!

Deuteronomy 31:6, Be strong and courageous...for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. NIV

Romans 8:31, What can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us? GW

2 Timothy 4:16-17, At my first hearing no one stood up in my defense. Everyone abandoned me. I pray that it won't be held against them. However, the Lord stood by me and gave me strength so that I could finish spreading the Good News for all the nations to hear. GW

I choose to believe that God is with me and God is for me and to live my life in accordance with this truth.