

Joy to the World Series

Part 1 - The Faithful Family

November 28, 2021

Pastor Brian R. Coles

Welcome to the first message in our Christmas series called, “Joy to the world.” We are going to have some fun over the next few weeks and focus our attention on recapturing the joy of the eyewitnesses of Jesus birth, life, and ministry,

These are people who were there. They actually saw him, lived with him. They could pick him out of a crowd and recognize the sound of his voice and the sound of his laugh. They knew his favorite foods. They were with him.

About 20 years ago I got to talk with a man who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in Washington. He said, “Brian, I saw him”.

Mary and Joseph are the very first eyewitnesses of Jesus. They welcomed him into their home and into their family.

Mary: What do we know about Mary?

She was highly favored by God
The Lord was with her
Her identity was rooted in submission to the will of God

Luke tends to tell Mary’s side of the story

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his

father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

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

³⁵ 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^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

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

Joseph: What do we know about Joseph?

He was obedient to the will of God

His character is a living example of what it means to do justice and to love mercy

Joseph had dreams,

- 1:20, take Mary as your wife
- 2:13, escape to Egypt
- 2:19, leave Egypt and return to Israel
- most probably again in 2:22, go to Nazareth

If I was Joseph, I think I would have trouble sleeping. Can I have the night off?

Matthew tends to tell the story from Joseph's perspective

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is

conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

It might be as you read the stories of these two young followers of God that you are intrigued by their mission to somehow father and mother the son of God. But is it the mission of Mary and Joseph that make them so intriguing? Or is it their character? What kind of person gets picked to parent the Messiah, who obeys the way they did, who sacrifices to the degree they did. Who moves from one place to another, based on a dream?

How is obedience fashioned within a person to that degree, to be misunderstood and mislabeled, rejected, uprooted for the will of God to be accomplished in you?

They must have been so faithful in the small things, devotion to prayer, acts of kindness, when tempted to mumble under their breath choosing to mumble blessing and not curses. Giving when no one is looking. Walking in humility. Serving when it costs.

Luke 16:10

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

Zechariah 4:10

Do not despise the day of small things

Never aspire to preach on the steps of a great stage if you have not yet learned to pray on the carpet of your closet floor.

Didn't Moses and David learn to first shepherd sheep before they learned to shepherd God's people?

Consider the character of Mary and Joseph

Mary and Joseph. Remind us that

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

The Faithful Family of God

1. **Jesus is the offspring of Eve who will crush Satan's head.**

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

2. **Jesus is the descendant of Abraham by which all nations will be blessed.**

Genesis 12

12 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

3. **Jesus is the descendant of David whose kingdom will never end.**

Luke 1:31-33 ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

2 Samuel 7:1-17

³Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."⁴ But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?""

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time, I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

¹⁷ Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

David, you do build a house for me, I build a house for you. You are thinking way too small.

Welcome to the family: Mary and Joseph are the first eyewitnesses of Jesus. They thought they were welcoming him into their home, but he was welcoming them into his. They thought they were welcoming him into their family, but he was welcoming them into God’s faithful family.

Set up closing song

What child is this

Prayer Ministry