

Family Christmas: Interrupted Family Christmas

INTRO: We are in a Series leading into Christmas....Family Christmas

Excited for Christmas Services

We will have 6 services

3 on Dec.23, Christmas Adam 3,5,7

3 on Dec 24 Christmas Eve 1,3,5

Invite someone....Heart is the message of Jesus

Last Week Doug Talked About Awkward Family Christmas

Genealogy of Jesus...packed message

14 generations.....1100 years of history in one message

All Leading to the birth of Jesus...The Messiah

Awkward/ messy family line that God Chose....Grace/ Forgiveness

TODAY: Interrupted Christmas.

We are going to dig into

The two main Characters besides the Baby Jesus

The roles that every kid wants in the kids play...

Mary and Joseph

Mary and Joseph were going about their ordinary lives.....

And all of a sudden....total shift.....altered the course

The direction of their life forever.

MARY WAS INTERRUPTED

Luke 1:26-33 (NIV)

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."

Talk about an interruption.....this is not just something minor right this is major.

STORY OF PEACOCKS

I recall one time when I was interrupted....but never like this....
It was fathers day a couple years ago.
We had just moved out of town a little bit on a few acres.
When we moved we pretty much told the kids they could get
What ever pets they wanted...becaseue we were in the country
So things escalated quickly
Shouldnt say that to kids.....same ones that swear....care them
So we started with 3 Goats that quickly became 6.
Then a outdoor cat....then 2 cats....then 3 cats...
Then litters of kittens....
A set of Bunnies then found a home.
Then horses.....2 then 3 then 4.
You see the problem right.
So it was Fathers day 2 years ago.....we come home from church.
And Nat and Elisia came over.....and everyone came outside
They said....we have your present for you
I was like ok....they opened the truck and there was a box
In the box.....2 Peacocks....
2 young male peacocks.....I was surprised....
Then they said.....good news....we can help build a cage for them today
INTERUPTION.....that was now my fathersday plan.....Making a cage
They told me for 6-9 mo they have to be caged and then they wont leave
Super funny now....but we went to buy fencing
and spent the rest of the building a cage in the barn.
Funny interruption to my day
Sad story tho.....turns out when you release 2 males after 9 mo.
They fly away and never come back
They go look for a female....I should have known
So ive been interrupted but never like MARY
My interruption cost me the evening....
MARY's changed the direction of her life forever.

LIFE CHANGING INTERRUPTION

Scripture is very clear that Mary was a Virgin....
Probably already had "The Talk" / wearing her purity ring
Great Promise to her but also terrifying
People were probably going to shame her for getting pregnant
How many would talk....unfaithful to Joseph

How many would attack her reputation
In that culture how many would look at her as a disgrace to her family
Imagine Having to tell Joseph
Sooooo....Im Pregnant
I know we havent.....you know....
But.....dont worry....its God's baby.
Like something on Jerry Springer

JOSEPH WAS ALSO INTERRUPTED

Matthew 1:18-21 (NIV)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[a]: 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[b] 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,[c] because he will save his people from their sins."

So God sent a angel to Joseph to confirm Mary's story
He was a good guy.....he must have really loved her
When she told him he had to have been hurt
Didn't believe her....but loved her enough to leave quiet

Mary and Joseph were ordinary people living ordinary lives
until God stepped in with a divine interruption.

The news that Mary would give birth to Jesus upended their plans,
stretched their faith, and changed their future.

Mary and Joseph were not seeking attention

They were preparing for a quiet life—engagement, marriage, community,
and the simple rhythms of village life.

Then God stepped in with a divine interruption
that would change not only their lives but the world.

Their story teaches us how to respond when God interrupts **our** plans with His **purpose**.

GOD'S INTERRUPTIONS OFTEN COME UNEXPECTEDLY

In the scripture we read in Luke the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary
In Nazareth...a town without fame....no prestige....not Edina
It was a common....ordinary town
Mary was doing nothing extraordinary
yet God stepped into her ordinary.
In Matthew we read the same for Joseph...
This happened before they were married
This was not in his plans
God's interruptions rarely arrive when convenient.
They come when we least expect them
because God sees a bigger story than we do.
When life shifts suddenly....do assume the worst
If Job Changes, relationship change, unexpected news
Ask God what he is up to....
Dont assume its a setback
It could be God setting up your next step.

GOD'S INTERRUPTIONS ARE CONNECTED TO HIS PURPOSE

God isn't just up there playing with us....he has a plan
His plan is always has a purpose
It is always best for us....even if in the moment
In the moment Mary And Joseph had to be messed up
Unplanned pregnacey...that people would doubt
Then Raising him...only to see him Killed...
But in the end....GODS PURPOSE
Was to bring redemption to not only Mary and Joseph
But to all man kind.
Mary's Calling was WAY bigger than her comfort
Comfort is not the gauge of being in the will of God
In our culture we strive for comfort....
But it isnt always what will bring the best for us.
Through her discomfort...Interruption
God said her son would be GREAT
Son of the Highest
Given the Throne of David
Rein Forever....

That is a massive promise that only came through their current storm

Joseph's Role was no accident either.. It was Essential

In Matthew the angel tells him

“Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.”

“She will bear a son.”

“You shall call His name Jesus.”

“He will save His people from their sins.”

Joseph's obedience placed him inside God's redemptive plan.

When God interrupts, He is not disrupting your life

He is aligning your life with His divine purpose.

WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR RESPONSE

Mary Responded with Faithful Surrender

Honest question in Luke 1:34 “How will this be?”

She did not resist....instead she sought understanding

God welcomes honest questions

We are not his minions...

With a sincere heart it is healthy for us to question his plan

But then look at Mary's Surrender

Luke 1:38 — “I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me according to your word.”

Mary Surrendered without seeing the full picture

She embraced God's Plan....without seeing the full picture

Even at a cost.....she embraced it.

Cost her reputation for a while

Her Comfort

Her own plans and expectations for life.

Faith begins not when we understand, but when we surrender.

God is honored when we say:

“Lord, I don't fully understand, but I trust You.”

Joseph Responded with Immediate Obedience

Matthew 1:24 — “Joseph... did as the angel of the Lord commanded.”

He did not argue....He did not delay.

He did not negotiate.....He obeyed.

Faith is not just belief—it is obedience.

When God speaks, the right response is immediate action.

GODS INTERRUPTIONS OFTEN PRODUCE INTERNAL STRUGGLE

Mary and Joseph both faced pressure from the interruption

Mary faced the risk of being misunderstood or doubted

The possibility of rejections with friends and family

The uncertainty of the Future

Joseph im sure struggled with Confusion

Why is this happening to me

Hurt even....like he was betrayed

Fear of Public Shame

Pressure to make the “Logical” decision

But in the End They Surrendered and Obeyed

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

If this is your buddy billy....saying this...you just think....what an arrogant clown

But when it is the God saying it...

The Lord of Lords, King of Kings,

Creator of the Universe and everything in it.

When He says it....you can trust it....put your faith in HIM.

It's normal to wrestle internally when God redirects your life.

Obedience does not always begin with comfort—it often begins with struggle.

GOD CONFIRMS HIS PLANS

God did not leave them confused; He confirmed His plan

For Mary: Gabriel's words (Luke 1:26–38)

Elizabeth's supernatural confirmation (Luke 1:41–45)

Her own strengthening through worship (Luke 1:46–55)

For Joseph: Angelic revelation (Matt. 1:20–21)

Repeated guidance through dreams (Matt. 2:13, 19, 22)

God can hold up to our need for confirmation

He loves to confirm in ways we couldn't even orchestrate

Every major interruption in my life God has confirmed

EVEN when God Lead Abby and I here to the waters.
 At the time it was an interruption....
 We were serving at the church Abby and I grew up in
 A great Church that we love
 We had transitioned from about 15 years of Youth Ministry
 Moved into Missions and other Ministry
 Promise of continued opportunity.
 On the physicalwe were set....living on Forest lake
 Had a boat on a lift....with a key fob.
 I come home from work....lower the boat as I walked out.
 Bam I was fishing.
 It made sense to stay put.
 God interrupted.....When Doug asked us to come 12 years ago...
 But homely....it want just Doug
 God confirmed it over and over again
 That is what he has done.
 You don't have to just take one persons word for it...
 You shouldnt.....God is mighty enough to confirm.

If God has interrupted your life, He will also guide you.
 He does not call without confirming,
 and He does not lead without lighting the next step.

Psalm 119:104-105 (NIV) **WORSHIP TEAM COMES**

*I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is
 a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

GODS INTERRUPTIONS LEAD TO GOD'S GREATEST BLESSINGS

Mary and Joseph received blessings beyond imagination:
 They Experienced God's Presence
 Jesus—Emmanuel, God with us — literally in their home.
 They Became Part of God's Redemption Story
 Their obedience brought the Savior into the world.

God's interruptions may feel costly, but they always lead to greater blessing
 Deeper intimacy with God.....Purpose beyond anything we planned
 Spiritual growth.....Impact on others.....;Eternal Impact

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

THEIR STORY TEACHES US HOW TO RESPOND TO GOD'S INTERRUPTIONS

With openness -

Mary said, "Let it be to me according to Your word." (Luke 1:38)

With obedience -

Joseph "did as the angel commanded." (Matt. 1:24)

With worship - (Luke 1:46–55)

With perseverance - They embraced the journey to Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth.

With trust - They believed God was in control even when life felt chaotic.

When God interrupts:

It may surprise you.

It may confuse you.

It may cost you.

It may stretch you.

But like Mary and Joseph,

if you respond with surrender, obedience, trust, and worship—

you will discover that God's interruption is the doorway

to His greatest work in your life.

STAND

We are Going to go into this song as we do I ask you...

Where is God interrupting your life today?

And how will you respond?

God is a god of interruptions....dont wait...run after him.....let him interrupt you....

PRAY

- ATLAR:
1. Salvation....interrupt a life without him
 2. Been Interrupted....struggle to surrender and Obey
 3. Regret.....From missed obedience....move forward.