

WHAT TO DO WHEN LIFE SURPRISES YOU

Pastor Chad Gilligan | July 17, 2022

I. WHAT TO DO WHEN LIFE SURPRISES YOU

- *How someone responds to surprises in life tells you a lot about who they really are.*

1. Give Space for Grace

Matthew 1:18-19 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.

A. Compassion is the best default.

- *Make beautiful music and people will listen to the lyrics.*

B. Choose to respond before you react.

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

C. Choosing grace does not mean ignoring truth.

2. Pre-Decide to Be Faithful

Matthew 1:19 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.

Matthew 1:19 (ESV) And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

A. Consistent you is building crisis you.

B. Pre-Decide not to be fearful.

C. Pre-Decide not to be flaky.

James 1:8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

D. Pre-Decide not to be phony.

E. Pre-Decide to be faithful.

3. Face the Unknown with Courage

Matthew 2:13-14 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

Charles Lindbergh: *"Is he alone who has courage on his right hand and faith on his left hand?"*

Winston Churchill: *"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."*

John Wayne: *"Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."*

John Wooden: *"Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts."*

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

A. You can have courage knowing that God will provide.

B. You can have courage knowing that God will protect.

Matthew 2:16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

4. Listen for The Leading of The Holy Spirit

A. Tune out distractions

B. Tune out conflicting messages

C. Tune in to the Holy Spirit

D. Times of greater stress call for times of greater seeking.

5. Remember: Surprises Often Lead to Salvation

Matthew 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Matthew 2:15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Matthew 2:23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

A. God is not surprised by your surprises.

B. God is working out something beautiful from your unexpected.