

CHRISTMAS OUTTAKES - Part 3

Joseph

Randy Hageman

Part of Christmas Outtakes

December 11, 2021

Joseph

December 12, 2021

Randy Hageman



This Christmas we're looking at the ___ stuff along with the parts we like and remember, because it's often the messed-up stuff, the outtakes, that most speak to us and our daily lives.

And the angel [Gabriel] said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will

reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

—Luke 1:30-33 (ESV)

Mary learns about her pregnancy from an angel, but how does ___ learn of Mary's pregnancy?

Luke's Gospel tells us the story of the birth of Jesus more from Mary's perspective, while Matthew's Gospel tells us more about ___ and his experience.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

—Matthew 1:18 (ESV)

How might Joseph have learned that Mary was pregnant?

- 1. Joseph figured it out by her physical ___ and asked or confronted Mary.**
- 2. Mary ___ Joseph what had happened.**

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

—Matthew 1:19 (ESV)

As Joseph first learns Mary is pregnant, he doesn't ___ her story.

Joseph chooses to end this betrothal the best and kindest way he can - by ___!

'If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.'

—Deuteronomy 22:23 (ESV)

This had to be one of the ____ moments of Joseph's life, as his dream of a wife is suddenly shot down by Mary, who, he believes, cheated on him.

What Joseph does is offer Mary tremendous kindness and ____ - far beyond justice - in the midst of his hurt and anguish.

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

—Matthew 1:20-25 (ESV)

THE ANGEL CONVEYS THREE MESSAGES:

1. The "angel of the Lord" ____ to Joseph in his time of shame and need.

The power of shame is that when we feel it, we feel like no one, including ____, wants to have anything to do with us.

At a time when Joseph may have been feeling God wanted to have nothing to do with him, God is ____ to him than He's ever been, and this is what breaks the power of shame.

God doesn't ____ us when things go wrong, when shameful moments occur, whether of our own doing or because of circumstances beyond our control.

2. We need to have ____ in how God sees us.

Part of the power of shame is that we ____ what others will

think of us.

In the midst of all this, God comes to Joseph and the angel tells him, “do not ____.”

In that moment Joseph understands that God sees him with ____ and ____.

God affirms that Mary’s story is ____, and when we know we’re standing on the ____, it becomes much easier to turn away from fear and shame.

The truth is that, no matter what we’re facing, no matter what we find ourselves in or got ourselves into, we can continue to be confident that God ____ us and is ____ us, right where we are.

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 (ESV)

3. God can use our most ____ moments.

Angel of the Lord: ... ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

—Matthew 1:20-21 (ESV)

One of the big problems with shame is that we can start to believe that our moments of shame can never be ____.

What we see here and throughout the Bible is that God can take our worst moments, our most disgraceful experiences, and bring tremendous ____ out of them.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

—Romans 8:28 (NLT)

God can turn our worst hurts and shame into the greatest _____ of our lives.

God takes the cross, “an instrument of suffering and shame,” and turns it into the greatest instrument of _____ this world has ever known.

Next Week: Shepherds