

Encounter Church
Sunday May 11, 2025

When God ask you to do what you don't want to do.

INTRODUCTION: We've been in this series on Jonah. In the first message of the series Jonah was asked to do something he didn't want to do.

We discovered that when God ask you to do something you don't want to do there will always be a boat going in the opposite direction.

Jonah made a wrong choice. He ended up on a boat going the opposite direction which caused God to send a storm, Jonah being thrown overboard, swallowed by a whale, after Jonah prayed the whale spit him on the shore and Jonah had another chance to do what God asked him to do.

HOW MANY OF US WOULD LIKE TO NOT EXPERIENCE THE STORM, BEING THROW OVERBOARD AND THEN SWALLOWED BY A BIG FISH AND THEN SPIT OUT ON THE SHORE? **CAN YOU IMAGINE THE SLIME AND THE SMELL!**

HERE'S MY QUESTION, HOW CAN I AVOID THE STORM, SLIME AND THE SMELL?

Here's the deal, when God ask you to do something you don't want to do, you can avoid the storm, slime and the smell but you may not be able to avoid the sacrifice!

EVEN JESUS WAS ASKED TO DO SOMETHING HE DIDN'T WANT TO DO.

Matthew 26:39- "He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Although Jesus is a perfect example of doing what you don't want to do we're not using him as the example in the message, BUT WE ARE USING HIS MOTHER!

Luke 1:30-35- "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."

WHAT WAS REALLY GOING THROUGH MARY'S MIND?

***** Oh how exciting! The angels telling me that after me and Joseph get married we're going to have a son. We don't even have to get a sonogram!!

AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GENDER REVEAL PARTY RIGHT AWAY!

AND SINCE WE KNOW THE GENDER, WE'LL HAVE A BABY SHOWER RIGHT AFTER I BECOME PREGNANT AND THEN ONE AGAIN AT 3 MONTHS AND ANOTHER AT 6 MONTHS.

Oh yes I have favor with God!

But there must have been something in the way the angel was speaking to Mary that Mary knew, this is happening now!

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS? MARY ASK, "HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN, I'M STILL A VIRGIN?"

AND FRIENDS THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!

In Jewish law, betrothal involved a formal, binding contract, before witnesses, but the betrothed abstained from intimacy and the woman remained at her father's house until the actual wedding ceremony.

The betrothed referred to themselves as husband and wife and the contract could be terminated only by death or a formal divorce decree.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24- "If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds 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 out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you."

NOW, DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT THIS YOUNG WOMAN REALLY WANTED TO HEAR. YOU'RE GOING TO BE PREGNANT BEFORE THE WEDDING!

Uhhhh....Joseph, I'm pregnant! And the Father.....HE'S GOD!!!!

AND AT FIRST IT APPEARS JOSEPH DIDN'T BELIEVE HER!! HE WAS GOING TO PRIVATELY DIVORCE HER UNTIL AN ANGEL APPEARS TO HIM IN A DREAM.

Mary's submission to God's will would risk the loss of her reputation, her life!

Luke 1:38- “Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.”

HOW CAN WE AVOID THE STORM, SLIME AND STINK WHEN GOD MESSES UP OUR PLANS AND ASK US TO DO SOMETHING WE DON’T WANT TO DO?

1. Give God Your Yes.....Now!

Adopt Mary’s attitude! Live a submitted life to God!

Mark 1:16-18-And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

Your walk with God goes as far as your YES to God!

HOW CAN I AVOID THE STORM, SLIM AND STINK?

2. Have Faith in God

Luke 1:45- “Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

John 20:29- “Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

3. Be a willing Sacrifice

Mary was willing to sacrifice her reputation!

Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life for you and me!

Romans 12:1- “Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God’s marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.”