

GROW THROUGH THIS

TEXTS:

MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: **After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph**, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

MATTHEW 2:1-4 AND 16

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.....

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

PSALMS 37:23

The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the Lord,

And He delights in his way.

THE INGREDIENTS OF HOPE

HOPE BEGINS WITH A HOW

- HOW DID MARY GET PREGNANT?
- HOW DID THIS HAPPEN AFTER OUR ENGAGEMENT?
- HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS?

THE ARRIVAL OF HOPE IS THE ABSENCE OF WHAT YOU HOPED FOR.

WHAT IS THE COST OF HOPE?

LETTING GO OF HOW YOU EXPECTED FOR IT TO GO. JOSEPH COULDN'T GET BACK HIS PLAN.

YOU CAN HOLD ONTO YOUR PLAN OR HOPE, BUT YOU CANNOT HOLD ONTO BOTH. THIS REQUIRES INGREDIENT 2.

HOPE HAS HUMILITY

CHRISTMAS SHOWS US HOPE IS AVAILABLE BUT NOT AUTOMATIC.

JOSEPH HOLDS HOPE.

HEROD HUNTS TO KILL HOPE.

TO INHERIT HOPE WE MUST WAIT FOR INSIGHT INSTEAD OF WORKING FROM OUR INSTINCTS.

INSIGHT PRESERVES PRESENCE.

INSTINCT PRESERVES OUR PLAN.

God's presence is greater than your plan.

"Humility is not how low you think of yourself, but how fully God occupies your vision for your life."

- *Andrew Murray*

THE FINAL INGREDIENT TO HOPE IS HONOR

JOSEPH CAN'T GET BACK HIS PLAN

GOD TELLS JOSEPH HE CAN'T GIVE UP ON MARY

HE HAS TO GROW THROUGH IT

HONOR GROWS THROUGH WHATEVER IT IS.

HONOR DEFINITION: Honor is treating what God has established as weighty enough to obey, protect, and prioritize—regardless of personal convenience.

LOOK THAT DEFINITION UP IN THE DICTIONARY AND YOU GET JOSEPH.

WHEN YOU LET GO OF GETTING IT BACK AND YOU DON'T GIVE UP AND YOU CHOOSE TO HONOR... YOU WILL GROW THROUGH IT.

YOU WILL GROW UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

YOU WILL GROW IN INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER

YOU WILL GROW IN HOPE

YOU WILL GROW IN INSIGHT

YOU WILL GROW IN TRUST

JOSEPH DOESN'T GET A MAP FOR HIS FUTURE. HE GETS A MOMENT FOR HIS FUTURE

BECAUSE HOPE LIVES OFF OF ORDERS FROM HEAVEN NOT OPTIONS FROM ITS HEAD.

THE STEPS OF THE RIGHTEOUS ARE ORDERED

I CAN'T HAVE ORDERED STEPS IF I DON'T TAKE ORDERS AND LET GOD GROW ME THROUGH WHATEVER IT IS.