

The Second Sunday in Advent

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, learned that Mary had become pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was very confused about this. He loved Mary, was going to marry her, and planned that they would have children together after they were wed. It was not proper for an unmarried woman to be pregnant or to give birth to a child. Joseph did not want to embarrass Mary; he did not want to be embarrassed himself. So, to avoid public disgrace, Joseph planned to divorce Mary quietly.

But, God had different plans for Joseph. God wanted Joseph to be his Son's father on earth. So, God sent an angel to Joseph when he was sleeping. The angel said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife...She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." The angel told Joseph that Mary's baby was the Son of God.

The angel's visit gave Joseph great PEACE about his future. "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife." Joseph obeyed God even though he must have wondered about the details of God's plan. Joseph was a carpenter by trade; he was used to controlling the plan. He selected and operated each tool in his toolbox for its designed purpose. He chose the axe to cut wood, and he worked the bow and string to work the drill. Joseph, the builder, now understood that he was to be a tool in God's plan to deliver his Son, Jesus, into our world.

Sometimes it's hard to understand what God has planned for us. Imagine that you are playing on the playground with friends and see the new boy at school sitting alone on a bench. It's fun to keep playing; it's hard to interrupt fun with friends. God may be sending you to meet this boy, though. If you obey God, and include the new boy in your game, you will feel the same PEACE that Joseph felt when he obeyed the angel.

Explore More

Psalm 85:8: I am listening to what the Lord God is saying;
God promises peace to us, God's own people,
if we do not go back to our foolish ways.

What does this verse tell you about God's gift of peace to you? _____

How will knowing this truth guide you each day? _____
