

“The Christmas Story – Go Tell It On Your Mountain”

Luke 1:1-4 (KJV)

**“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,
2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;
3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,
4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed”**

- * The author of this Book is a humble physician and a very careful historian – His name is Luke
- * This Disciple of Jesus Christ also wrote the Book of Acts
- * The Book of Luke was probably written around A.D. 58-62

Luke tells us in Luke 1:3 that he was writing to a man named Theophilus

- * Theophilus – was a Gentile convert [Luke 1:3 and also Acts 1:1]

Theophilus

"friend of God"

Luke addressed his Gospel and the book of Acts

Matthew Henry Commentary

“Luke dedicates his gospel to his friend Theophilus, not as to his patron, though he was a man of honour, to protect it, but as to his pupil, to learn it, and hold it fast.

It is not certain who this Theophilus was; the name signifies a friend of God; some think that it does not mean any particular person, but every one that is a lover of God; Dr. Hammond quotes some of the ancients understanding it so: and then it teaches us, that those who are truly lovers of God, will heartily welcome the gospel of Christ, the design and tendency of which are, to bring us to God.

But it is rather to be understood of some particular person”

Luke's intent and purpose was to set forth an eyewitness account of Jesus – The Son of Man – the Savior of the World

Luke 1:1-2(KJV)

“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,
2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word...”

Luke's gospel is a record of historical events

* “For as much as many have taken in hand to set forth” - “Many...set forth” – *what?* - The events of Christ's life

Simply, Luke was saying that many had written about the life and work of Christ, but they were not as complete nor as orderly as Luke wished to record:

Luke 1:3-4 “3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,
4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed”

A quick comparison of the first two chapters of Luke with Mark and Matthew will show this

* Luke includes many more events than the other two Synoptic Gospels

The fact that many had written a record on the life of Christ is strong evidence that the events are true

Luke 1:1 (KJV)

“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us...”

* The events or things of Christ's life were “*most surely believed*”

* The words for “*most surely believed*”- also means: *Things that were fulfilled, that were actually performed, or that had run their full course*

Luke is saying that the things of Christ were not only believed, but they were also *accomplished or fulfilled* among the believers of that day

- * Simply, The things (events, matters) of Christ **actually took place**
- * They were purposeful
- * They were destined to be accomplished and fulfilled

The point is this

The things of Christ are a record of historical events, *things that actually happened* and *that actually fulfilled the purpose of God.*

Therefore, the things are "*most surely believed among us [believers]*"

- * What are the things accomplished and believed?
- * Both the things of the New Testament and of the Old Testament
- * The whole Bible is a record of "*those things*"

Matthew 1:18-20 (KJV)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Note the words

"while he thought on these things"

- * Joseph did just what he should have done: he got alone with God to think and pray through the predicament
- * Because of his Godly dependence and obedience, God met his need
- * God gave Joseph a special revelation
- * Listen my friends I believe we are moving into a Time of Special God Revelation – The Greatest Story Told is lived on the mountains of life!



There is a right way to confront, Mountains and Traumatic experiences

- * Joseph demonstrated the right way
- * He got alone and "*thought on these things*"

Matthew 1:20

"20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost"

- * Being a just man of God – he knew to get alone with God
- * He thought on *these things* – [Theses things God Things] - As he thought about the Mountain that suddenly came before him
- * He thought on *these things* / [Theses things God Things] – He thought about the situation that came as it seemed out of now where
- * He thought on *these things* [Theses things God Things] – He thought about the direction he should take – He needed an a GOD ANSWER!

John 15:7

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you"

James 5:13

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms"

Psalm 91:15

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him"

Isaiah 65:24

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear"

- * Joseph thought on *these things* – an angel on the Lord brought **clarity** - fear was broken – a confirmation came that it was all conceive by the Holy Ghost! *"for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost"*

You see, there are Mountains of this age – Mountains in your life that need the Christmas Story – [right now Washington DC. Needs this story]

There is a way to conquer criticism, murmuring, and censorious judgment – That may come as you live to tell the Christmas Story

*** It is to do what Joseph did: hush, keep quiet, and get alone with God to discuss the matter**

*** Then there is a TIME TO MOVE – FAITH IN ACTION!!**

A Time to Make a God Move!

A Time to Live His Story and Tell His Story on the Mountain!

God met Joseph when he took time to get alone and to think

*** The right frame of mind is essential in order to hear and receive the message of God**

You can't give or live a message until you receive a message!

The believer who gets alone with God and thinks through the trials, takes stock of the Mountain – confront it with a word from God

*** God will give assurance and guide the believer**

Philippians 4:6-7

“6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

Joseph received the call of God, and he accepted God's call and was obedient

*** Because Joseph thought on the things before he moved on those things – Joseph was used to usher into this world the greatest story ever told!**

Joseph's Character

Character

- * One of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual
- * Reputation: moral excellence and firmness <a man of sound character>
- * The complex of mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person

As Joseph deliberated the entire situation he found himself in - the Lord spoke to him and placed a call on his life, like He had with Mary

- * This great call to service was, spiritually speaking, a great call and one that would have honored any man.
- * But from a purely human standpoint, it was a call that placed a great weight on this man's shoulders and it was a call to carry a great weight of shame.

His was a call that involved three elements

Matthew 1: 20-23

“20 But *after he had considered this*, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

1. The Revelation Of A Person

- * The Lord's call to Joseph was designed to help him deal with his hurts and fears.
- * The angel of the Lord told him plainly that this child growing in Mary's womb was the Son of God.
- * The Lord was calling Joseph to be the surrogate father to the Messiah!
- * The Mountains in your life – The Suddenly that come out of nowhere will draw out a true revelation of who a person is.
- * You see how much God is on the inside will always show forth on the outside when mountains need to hear the Christmas Story

It was after he considered the things guess what?

- * That's when the Lord shows up
- * That's when answers come forth

7.

Matthew 1: 21

“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”

2. The Revelation Of A Purpose

- * This verse tells us the child's gender, the child's name and the child's purpose in life.**
- * Joseph is told that this child will be THE One Who will provide salvation from sin.**
- * The Lord will always bring clarity to obedience**
- * Get this my friends Salvation – The Message of Salvation was coming to His Life!**
- * Joseph's house would have Jesus – and would forever!**

Matthew 1: 22-23

“ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23"“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, "God with us"”

3. The Revelation Of A Plan

- * Joseph is told that God is working out His eternal purpose in the lives of Mary and Joseph**
- * God is going to bring to pass all the prophecies concerning the Messiah and He is going to use Joseph to be a part of it!**

In all of this, Joseph is an example to other believers

- * When a crisis arose in his life, he sought the Lord's face**
- * Instead of reacting harshly and abruptly, Joseph reacted in faith waiting on the Lord for guidance and direction, and he was helped by God!**

The Person

The Purpose

The Plan

Conduct

- * The act, manner, or process of carrying on
- * A mode or standard of personal behavior especially as based on moral principles

Matthew 1: 24-25

“When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus”

When Joseph received his call from God, he altered all of his plans and put away all of his considerations and simply went and did what the Lord said to do.

Notice what the Bible says about Joseph's conduct**He Was Submissive**

- * Joseph did what the Lord told him to do!

His Humility

- * According to history, there were three theories surrounding Mary's pregnancy.

They are

1. The baby was Joseph's
2. The baby belonged to Mary's secret lover
3. Mary had been raped by a Roman soldier

- * Any of these situations would have *produced a situation that would bring shame* on both Mary and Joseph

- * Yet, when Joseph went ahead and married Mary, most people probably assumed that she and Joseph had not been willing to wait until the appropriate time to consummate their marriage

All of this brought shame to the life of Joseph, but just like his adopted Son, he despised the shame and because of the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross!

Yet Joseph was Humble before the Lord cause Joseph heard from the Lord

His Obedience

- * Without quibbling or hesitation, Joseph did that which he had been commanded to do
- * What a lesson for the children of God!
- * Obedience is what He desires and is one thing we can always deliver!

He Was Surrendered

- * Joseph was a man who was willing to place the will of the Lord ahead of his own rights
- * Even when it was inconvenient, Joseph willingly laid aside his own rights so that he could honor the Lord!

There are times when doing God's will is not the easiest thing to do. However, doing His will is always the RIGHT thing to do!

Conclusion

- * Mary delivered her baby
- * On that great night, Joseph did as he had been commanded when he took his Creator into his arms and called his name JESUS
- * Hey, [think on these things](#) my friends!

Now, this year in Christmas plays and programs all around the world Joseph will take a backseat to shepherds, wise men, animals and other characters. However, to me, this man stands out as the real hero of Christmas, because of the lessons he teaches us about obedience to God and surrender to God. Let's take these lessons from the life of Joseph and make sure the same characteristics are found in us

Genesis 22:2

“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of”

- * That the Message of Christmas to the Mountains of Life