

DAY 3: Time to be obedient – Joseph's response to the dream

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife" Matthew 1:24

If there is someone in the Christmas story that could have said "Christmas is not what I expected" it would be Joseph. His original plans were completely changed with Mary's unexpected pregnancy.

He could have denounced Mary and have her stoned to death. He could have divorced her. Instead, he received her as his wife, obeying what the angel of the Lord had commanded.

As a man of God, Joseph was attentive to God's voice. By his immediate response to the angel's message, we can infer he was familiar with God's way of communicating through dreams. He responded with a resounding yes, here I am Lord.

Joseph remained obedient, even after the difficulty of having to travel with Mary to Bethlehem for the census or having to improvise a birth room in a stable. He remained obedient naming the child Jesus as the angel instructed. He remained obedient after Jesus' birth, when he was told in another dream to escape to Egypt, a foreign land, with Mary and the baby (*Matthew 2:13*) and years later, obediently returned to Israel (*Matthew 2:19*). He did as God instructed every time.

Joseph was a willing vessel to God's plan of redemption in good times and in difficult times. Are you? God is not silent in 2020. He is still reaching to mankind for salvation. Are you tuned in to hear His voice as Joseph did? Is your heart ready to obey Him?

God knows our heart, but never imposes. We always have the choice to obey or disobey. May He find you willing 'to do as told', even with all the unknowns and fears around us, just as Joseph did.

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always a time to rejoice. Sing today's carol with joy and gratitude for God's desire to use you for His Kingdom.

Tell me the story of Jesus



TELL me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus
Sang, as they welcomed His birth:
Glory to God in the highest,
Peace and good tidings to earth!

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that He passed;
How He was tried and was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labors,
Tell of the sorrows He bore;
He was despised and afflicted
Homeless, rejected and poor.

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Mocking His anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him;
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see;
Glory forever to Jesus
He paid the ransom for me.