

Hope When You're In A Crisis

Matthew 1.18-25; Luke 1.26-38

Sometime in your life, you will face a crisis. We all will. When you're in a crisis, it can seem utterly hopeless. You can't see light at the end of the tunnel. You don't even know if there's an end to the tunnel! The Christmas story reveals how to find hope when you're in a crisis.

A Unique Crisis: Mary is pregnant!

- How can this be?
- Who can I tell?

The Crisis Widens: Joseph's predicament

- What about the betrothal (engagement)?!
- What about our reputation?

A Crisis Resolved: Hope when we trust and obey

- Mary's submission and trust (Luke 1.38)
- Joseph's faith and obedience (Matt. 1.24-25; 2.13-14, 20-21)



God is great. Just trust and obey.

Digging Deeper

Joseph and Mary together display amazing strength in a time of crisis. The narrative of events surrounding the birth of Christ in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 can teach us much. In Joseph's case, we have no record of anything he said; but what he did speaks volumes! What lessons do you see in what Joseph did?

We do have a record of things Mary said, perhaps none more beloved than her 'Magnificat' in Luke 1.46-55 (see below). What truths and character traits are reflected in these timeless words? What is Mary's view of God and His actions? How would an attitude like that reflected here be helpful for anyone in a time of crisis?

“My soul exalts the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant;
For behold, from this time on all generations will count me
blessed.
For the Mighty One has done great things for me;
And holy is His name.
And His mercy is upon generation after generation
Toward those who fear Him.
He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of
their heart.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones,
And has exalted those who were humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things;
And sent away the rich empty-handed.
He has given help to Israel His servant,
In remembrance of His mercy,
As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and his descendants forever.”