Daily Devotion #195

**This is Crazy!**

**Matthew 1:18-19 (NASB)** *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.”*

In early Jewish culture, a marriage was recognized in two parts, the first was called the betrothal, this was the time when two families made a contract for their children and agreed that they would be husband and wife. And because there was a contract, the betrothal was considered a legal marriage. The second part was the wedding or ceremony where after the ceremony, the marriage would be consummated.

Joseph and Mary had been through the first part but not the second when Mary became pregnant with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Do you wonder what was going on in Joseph’s mind when he found out Mary, his new wife, was pregnant and He knew he wasn’t the father? Scripture only tells us that when he realized the truth, he planned to end the marriage and do so quietly, so others would not know or not make a big deal out of it. That’s all we are told, until the angel visits him in a dream and tells him the truth of what God is doing. Thank the Lord for that dream. Because if that had not happened, Joseph would have fulfilled his plan to surrender Mary to her own fate. And he would have lived his days believing she cheated on him, breaking his heart.

I can only imagine how troubled Joseph must have been. I can only imagine all of his thoughts such as, “Who was the person who had taken his place? How could she do such a thing to him? How could she deny what the law required of two people who pledged themselves in marriage? How could she do this to her parents? Her friends? His parents? His friends?”. I can hear him in conversation saying, “This is crazy! “Is this a nightmare?” I find myself feeling sorry for Joseph at this point in the story. I can’t imagine the pain that he was going through. I can’t imagine the hurt in his heart and the confusion or the wondering of what he could have done differently to keep Mary from doing such a thing. I feel for him in the sense that he must have been so distraught over this terrible situation?

Thankfully, this is not the end to the story. Thankfully, God was behind it all and was doing a work in Mary and him, that would change the world. And thankfully, God was loving enough to Joseph to give him the truth and tell him how to handle the situation. Thankfully, God helped them deal with the craziness of it all. The truth is, God is always doing something we might call crazy. For example, why would God allow anyone to go through the pain they experience in life? Why wouldn’t He allow cercumstances to be different so that they would not cause the stress that they often cause? And a whole host of other things.

The answer is that God uses the crazy things in our lives or what appear to be crazy, to display Himself. He is always the hero who comes through in the most difficult and challenging times. He is the One who rides in on the white horse to save the day. The One who makes all things right when noone else can.

I understand that there are times when it doesn’t seem like God is saving the day, so to speak or changing the circumstances. When a person dies from their difficult situation, people will ask where God is. It’s hard for us to understand because we don’t have the mind of God. But what we do have is His Word and what He has shown us to be true. Take this situation with Joseph and Mary. They were simply living their lives as anyone else with their normal routines. Then, out of nowhere, they become the parents of the Savior.

The story tells us they struggled until God revealed it was Him doing the work in their lives. After that, they accepted the craziness as the way God had chosen to fulfill His purposes. And that’s how God works in all of us. For those who belong to Him, He knows we are already safe for eternity, so no matter what He does, we are safe. If He choses to take us through difficult times or to face challenges we are not ready to face, He knows His plan to get us through, even if that means He takes us to heaven. Beloved, don’t get lost in what seem to be crazy circumstances in your life. The goal for each of us is to make our plans and live our lives to the best of our ability, yet fully trusting God through it all. Which means, He may do some crazy things to fulfill His purposes. But that doesn’t mean He has forgotten you or has changed your final destination. He knows His plans for you. Your job is to trust Him no matter what.