No Ordinary Christmas

Sermon Outline

A. Two Lives Were Turned Upside Down (Matthew 1:18-21):

1. Their life was well ordered for marriage:
   a) They have lived their lives in an honorable manner:
      • Joseph is a righteous man (Matthew 1:19).
      • Mary has found favor with God (Luke 1:28).
   b) Engaged for marriage – can only get a divorce.
   c) Joseph paid his dowry.
   d) The year of preparations had begun.
   e) He is having a normal life.

2. God waited for Joseph and Mary to be pledged to be married to each other. Mary’s age and the fact that Joseph married her ensured her virginity.

3. The lives of two people (Joseph and Mary Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38) were turn upside down so that the world can be turned right side up:
   a) Mary clearly understood what happened to her (Luke 1:38).
   b) Being pregnant for sure destroyed her wedding day.
   c) There was for sure rebuke and scorn (notice no mention of either person’s parents).
   d) Despite the humiliation Mary and Joseph remained faithful to their divine call.
   e) Even having the baby was humiliating – no room in the inn.

4. Joseph now has to make several trips he did not plan on (this could have been in March):
      • Mary was in Nazareth, she then went to Judah to Elizabeth and then came back, 3 months later to Nazareth to Joseph, they then went to Judea, Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Herod who lived in Jerusalem sent the Magi who went to Bethlehem – Joseph then left for Egypt and came back and because he was afraid decided to settle in Nazareth - Mt. 1:19-23).
   a) His angels protect us (Hebrews 1:14; Ps. 34:7; Rom. 8:28).
   b) He gives us strength to do all things (Phil. 4:13).
   c) He provides us all spiritual blessings (Ephes. 1:4) – which He lavishes upon us (Eph. 3:17).
5. Many babies were murdered (Matthew 2:16-18). God did not find a way to stop this (1 Thessalonians 2:16).


1. Herod intended to kill baby Jesus (John 1:10).
2. Joseph vividly sees (no assumption-full knowledge-no hesitation)- the angel who commands him to leave.
3. He must flee at night on a very difficult road to travel (most likely left most of his belongings).
4. Left family and material possessions behind.

C. A Love for God Conquered it All (Luke 2:21-38)

1. They made it their custom to not miss the Feast of the Passover.
2. They did this every year leading up to the last recording of their visit, that was when Jesus was twelve (Lk 2:52).
3. Every male was expected to appear at the Passover, but a woman was not required to attend every Passover (Ex. 23:14-17; 34:23; Deut. 16:16). Mary made it a point to attend each one.
5. Anna was able to worship Christ too (Luke 2:36-38).
6. Mary and Joseph’s faithfulness blessed us all and created special moments in their hearts (Luke 2:33).