

Joseph & Mary

10th December 2017

Luke 1:26-38 & Matthew 1:18-25,

In the pre-Christmas story these two main characters, Joseph and Mary, played their unique roles in a different gospel. Luke's gospel shares Mary's perspective, while Matthew focuses on Joseph's role. Luke dedicates how Mary found out she was pregnant and what Mary did after she received the news of her pregnancy, whereas Matthew shares the male perspective of Joseph's discovery.

In Matthew text, we can notice how Joseph responded after receiving the news of Mary's pregnancy that the child in the womb was not his. Joseph was heartbroken, yet he wasn't out for vengeance. He wanted to treat his wife Mary with compassionate justice. He just wanted to try and move on with the least amount of shame for all involved. But God had different plans. God intervened with him in a dream.

Matthew goes on in verse 23 to share how part of the prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus: ***"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*** (which means, "God with us") (Matthew 1:23). It reminds us the meaning of the name of Immanuel: our God who is with us. He is Jesus, who saves us, and he is with us all the days of our lives. He is with us in every valley of the shadow of death as well as on the mountaintop of life. In fact, the last words Jesus eventually would say to his disciples before ascending into heaven would be a reminder and echo of his name, Immanuel: ***"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"*** (Matthew 28:20).

The message we take today is this: Jesus is with us. God is with us, Immanuel. It is about the heart. It is about moving forward. It is about living life unafraid. We all have that ability. We all have a chance to share that with a world that is afraid. We are not afraid. Let it be as God has said.