
1) Pay The Taxes, Joseph.

Verses #1-#5. Of all times for Mary to give birth! It was right during tax time. God had His sovereign plan for prophecy to be fulfilled. Mary and Joseph were from Nazareth, but traveled to Bethlehem, to pay the necessary required taxes. This is the exact birthplace for Jesus to be born, Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

2) Have The Baby, Mary.

Verse #6 & #7. The Baby was due. Where would Mary go to give birth? They couldn't make it back to Nazareth, she was in labor. They tried the Inn. No room.

Sometimes, God gets us out of our comfort zone, to walk by faith in a deeper dimension. When we walk by faith, we have to trust Him with the unknown. All we really have is the Word of God to depend on. It's surely not our feelings. We can experience His peace as a "go" sign, but don't look at your current circumstances in order to calculate whether it's God or not. Often, satan will use circumstances to distract you away from God's perfect will and timing. Keep your eyes on the goal. Keep your eyes on His Word.

Mary was going to have that baby. Going to Nazareth seemed like a distraction, but it really wasn't. Going to Nazareth, was actually the perfect will of God. It was a fulfillment of prophecy that was predicted a long, long time ago in scripture. God just used the taxes to get Mary and Joseph to the right place at the right time. God's timing is always perfect if we just let Him lead in our lives.

Many, today, are just like that innkeeper. There is "no room" for Jesus in their hearts. Just as Mary and Joseph were desperate for a place for their baby to be born, people today, need to be desperate for a Saviour in their hearts. It seems that Jesus isn't convenient or adaptable to a lot of people's lifestyles. So, they push Him aside, spiritually speaking, and make "no room" for Him, until they need a supernatural touch.
Even then, some do not turn to our Lord, or do so, for their quick fix, only to return back to their former way of living after their crisis has ended. Without Jesus, they are without lasting hope! Tragic!

We must all recognize that an inner need within ourselves. We were created, by our Creator, with a void that needed to be filled. Only Jesus can fill our lives with satisfaction. He can meet the deepest need of our soul. He is the answer for our eternal life.

3) Angels Go Announce.

Verse #8-#14. Read verses #10 & #11, especially. "...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Angels were often used to make important announcements of news or events.

Example: (a) To Manoah's wife. She was visited by an angel, announcing the birth of Samson. (Judges 13:3-5)

(b) To Zacharias. This was about the birth of his (and Elisabeth's) son, John. (Luke 1:13-20)

(c) To Mary. The angel, Gabriel, was explaining the birth of Jesus. (Luke 1:26-38)

Other Examples Of Announcements:

Matthew 28:2-7. (Angel at Jesus tomb).

Acts 8:26. (Angel gives Philip direction to meet the Ethiopian).

Acts 10:3-7. (Cornelius had direction given in a vision, by an angel).
4) Shepherds Come And See.

Verses #15 & #16. "...they came with haste."

When we receive direction from the Lord (in this instance it was an angel God used), we need to obey as soon as possible.

Procrastination will only cause us to miss, prolong, or delay God's instructions and breakthrough's we sometimes so desperately desire.

Never run ahead of God.
Never run behind.

God's timing is always perfect. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and follow His leading.

5) Hurry, Go And Tell!

Verses #17 & #18. "...they made known abroad..."

When was the last time you made known abroad the news of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ?

Mark 16:15 - "Go into all the world..."

Matthew 28:7 - "And go quickly and tell..."

6) Mary, Keep It Quiet.

Verse #19. "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

Some things we shouldn't speak or share with others. Some information is too sacred to talk about until God releases you to do it. Remember how Joseph spoke out too soon?
(Genesis 37:5-11)

7) Return To Work Rejoicing.

Verse #20. "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."

When we really have a personal encounter with Jesus, it will change us deep down on the inside. His presence (from the Holy Spirit), fills us with praise and thanksgiving for all that He's done. Just being in His presence gives us peace and joy.

Psalms 16:11 - "...in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

This earthly life can have routines, disappointments and get very predictable. We need to allow God to refresh and restore us back to the roots of our salvation. Remember the beginning stages of our growth, when we were excited about God? We were full of hopes and dreams. With God, we can rise above the mundane routines and rituals of this earthly life.

Begin getting excited, thinking about your eternal destiny. Get excited, learning more from God's Word. Get excited, knowing you are led by His Holy Spirit each day. Get excited, because He does desire to use you in realms you never even imagined before. Get excited, because souls are hearing the gospel and being born again. God is using you, your life and words, as a testimony and witness, so others can be brought out of darkness into His marvelous light!

Let God use you. Begin now!

Get to work, rejoicing!

Matthew 9:37 - "...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

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