

Have you ever been in a place where you were really, really disappointed? Your hopes and dreams shattered? Have you ever thought you were hearing from God and yet you ended in a completely unexpected place?

- ◆ **Matthew 1:18-19.** Tells of Joseph and the birth of Jesus.
 - This familiar story is about real people like us. Can you imagine how Joseph felt?
 - Engagement was different then – it was legally binding. How unbelievable and disappointing for Joseph as Mary tried to explain what she knew and that it wasn't her unfaithfulness but God's faithfulness.
 - What did Joseph think? Did Joseph wonder if God was with them?
 - Are you in a place today where you wonder what to do? Or where is God in this?

- ◆ **Matthew 1 and 2.** Joseph purposed to do things quietly until God spoke through angels to Joseph.
 - 1:24-25 An angel appeared in a dream. Joseph did as the Lord commanded.
 - 2:20 An angel spoke to him in a dream.
 - 2:19 An angel appeared in a dream.
 - 2:22 He was warned in a dream.
 - God's plan for Joseph was much different than his own plan because he did what God said to do. God's plan became his plan.
 - What is our plan for our lives? What was the plan given as a child? What was changed to your plans?
 - It can be the same for each of us as we allow God to speak His dreams into our lives! Let God speak today. God's Word is alive and living and He will speak through it. Embrace His Word and His dreams for us. Pursue God's dream for us!
 - **1 Corinthians 2:9** ...*What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love Him.*

- ◆ A strange way to save the world – unexpected.
 - What thoughts went through Mary's mind? What would Joseph do or think? We know the result – Jesus – God is with us. What about before - Between the unexpected and the dream? Would she be believed?
 - **Matthew 1:19** Joseph didn't want to expose her. He didn't plan for this unexpected. How does the conversation go? Do you walk away? Or share the joy? Or share the sorrow and fear?
 - **Matthew 1:20.** An angel came to Joseph. The unexpected and fear seem to be connected.
 - Joseph did what God said to do. Joseph accepted the unexpected. And the unexpected Savior was born.
 - Have we been confronted with truth? Could it be that God sees me in this unexpected place?
 - In our unexpected, where will we turn? Where will we lean?
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*
 - Give Him our heart.
 - Give Him our ways.
 - Give Him our will.
 - Give Him our understanding.
 - And the promise that comes is that He will be faithful to direct our paths.