

# Wonder - In Obscurity

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

Week 2 - December 14th, 2025

[Link to Sunday Service](#)

## Summary

This week we explore the tension between 'merry and bright' and 'messy and broken' that characterizes both Christmas and life itself. Through Mary and Joseph's response to Jesus's unexpected arrival, we see how God's plans often disrupt our own plans, yet lead to something greater. The first Christmas was far from perfect - it involved an unwed teenage pregnancy, potential divorce, and social shame. However, Mary and Joseph chose to say 'yes' to God despite not understanding His full plan. Because of this, we should consider what our lives would look like if we gave God our unconditional 'yes,' even when it costs us our own plans and requires us to live for Jesus, and Jesus alone.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word and learn from the example of Mary and Joseph, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our own agendas and preconceptions, and make us receptive to Your voice. Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts that are willing to respond in obedience to whatever You reveal to us. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What is one Christmas tradition or memory from your childhood that always brings you joy, and what is one thing about the Christmas season that tends to stress you out?

## Key Verses

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:30, 38
- Ephesians 2:14
- Psalm 46:10

## Questions

1. How do you typically respond when your plans get disrupted or don't work out the way you expected? What does this reveal about where you place your trust?
2. Mary and Joseph said 'yes' to God even though they didn't understand the full picture. What makes it difficult for us to trust God when we can't see the whole plan?
3. In the message, Pastor Clay mentioned that 'God's purposes are greater than your plans.' How does this truth challenge or comfort you in your current circumstances?
4. Joseph made room for God to speak by slowing down and listening. What are some practical ways you can create space in your life to hear from God?
5. Joseph chose to live for an 'audience of one' - Christ rather than the crowd. Whose approval do you find yourself seeking most often, and how does this affect your decisions?
6. What do you think your 'next step of obedience' might be? What is God calling you to do that you've been hesitant to follow through on?

## Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where God has been calling you to obedience but you've been hesitant to respond. Take one concrete step toward that obedience, whether it's having a difficult conversation, making amends, being more generous, or simply creating daily space to hear from God.

Additionally, establish a daily rhythm of slowing down for at least 10 minutes to read God's Word and listen for His voice, asking Him what He wants to say to you about your life and circumstances.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example of Mary and Joseph who chose to trust You even when their lives were turned upside down. Help us to follow their example of saying 'yes' to You, even when we don't understand Your plans. Give us the courage to take our next steps of obedience, and help us to find our peace in You rather than in our circumstances. As we go into this week, may we create space to hear Your voice and live for Your approval alone. Transform our hearts to desire Your will above our own plans, knowing that You are good and Your purposes are always greater than what we can imagine. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.