

A CHRISTMAS AFFAIR

Preparing for Christmas

Mary

Healthy doubt

- Zechariah

"Zechariah said to the angel, 'How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also . . .' But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time." Luke 1:18,20

- Mary

"Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. Mary asked the angel, 'But how can this happen? I am a virgin.' The angel replied . . . 'For nothing is impossible with God.'" Luke 1:29,34-35,37

What promises has God given you?

Where are you Zechariah like . . . Mary like?

Where does God want you to have Mary-like faith?

Wise surrender

"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true' . . ." Luke 1:38

- Mary's song of praise–The Magnificat

Luke 1:48-55

Where does God want you to surrender?

Joseph—the chosen father

His character

- Righteous

*"Because Joseph her husband was a **righteous man** . . ." Matthew 1:19 NIV*

- Kind and gracious

*"Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and **did not want to disgrace her publicly**, so he decided to break the engagement quietly." Matthew 1:19*

His faith

- Mary's child is God's son

"As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.'" Matthew 1:20

- Jesus—a Savior to our rescue

"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

- Immanuel—God with us

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1:23

- Courageous faith

"When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus." Matthew 1:24-25

God has chosen you . . . where does God want you to be
a more Joseph-like leader in your family?

John Stott's Daily Reflections—pages 133-140

Additional Daily Bible Readings—visit www.marinerschurch.org

Kenton Beshore • December 12 & 13, 2009



CDs and DVDs are available in our bookstore.

Watch, listen, or subscribe to our podcast: marinerschurch.org Scripture from the NLT unless noted.

