

*Characters of  
Christmas*

Joseph: an Example of  
Trust

Matthew 1: 18 – 25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” — which means, “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:18 – 25

**THE DIFFICULTY OF TRUSTING GOD**

It is often more difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ God than it is to \_\_\_\_\_ him.

*Proverbs 27:1 – “We do not know what a day may bring forth.”*

Trusting God is difficult because

\_\_\_\_\_ . . . sometimes it’s

*Isaiah 45:15 – Truly you are a God who **hides himself**, O God and Savior of Israel.*

*Job 23:8 – 10 – <sup>8</sup> “But if I go to the east, **he is not there**; if I go to the west, **I do not find him**. <sup>9</sup> When he is at work in the north, **I do not see him**; when he turns to the south, **I catch no glimpse of him**. <sup>10</sup> But **he knows the way that I take**; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.*

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Trusting God and making \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ for emergencies are not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Accept the fact that \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 6:19–20 –<sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

God is the only constant and in the process of learning to trust him  
we'll have to constantly \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 6:21-24 –<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also . . . <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other; or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

Trusting God is really about embracing \_\_\_\_\_  
and where \_\_\_\_\_

*Isaiah 55:8 – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.*

Trusting God is difficult because God and we are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Hebrews 11:13-16 –<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Remember: \_\_\_\_\_ not

*Romans 14:8 –<sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

*Romans 8:28-30 –<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

*Romans 8:35-39 –<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Job 42:5 – My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.*

*Genesis 45:5-8 –<sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you . . . <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance . . . <sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.*