

Getting this Christmas right

The Who in our lives

Try and imagine back to the first manger scene: try and see
Mary and the emotion and love on her face
Joseph looking and observing Mary and the love he has
The shepherds looking on
Sheep and cattle overjoyed to be in this event
Just a wonderful picture of community and family



Perfect family photo of what genuine love looks like
Is it possible to get a family photo like that

Let's look behind the scenes in order to get a family photo like that. What personal battles do we need to go through to get a picture like that?

Matt 1:18-25

- The Battle for RIGHTEOUSNESS and personal integrity

Before they came together - we call it engagement

In their day Betrothal - a serious public event for the whole village - you are on your journey in front of the everyone - they made declaration that nothing was going on between them until they were married. This is a very big deal to God about this. Birthed in righteousness

When you are engaged - the hints get more pronounced

No matter what century you are in - you will have this battle to win. Joseph and Mary won this battle.

Ever sin a person commits is outside the body - but this sin destroys the soul

Sex was designed for in the confides of marriage - that will knit two lives together to last for a lifetime.

Fire in fireplace - nice and cozy and intimate, however if the fire gets out of the fireplace and onto the lounge-room floor it will destroy everything.

Sexual purity will effect - it will effect your soul and you will struggle to commit, hold down a long lasting relationship

Variety pack of cereal - Coco pops, Fruit loops, Frosties.

When you get married you discover that you will only have Special K - stick to one

Sexual righteousness, it also needs to come out in out words, actions etc being a person of your word, not living beyond your means

Do you think that God would have entrusted Joseph and Mary to raising the Saviour if there variety pack kind of people? He would have chased someone else

Some say - I want to be used by God like Smith Wigglesworth - but God says I can't get you to do the basics/ small things first - devotions etc

God doesn't have favorites

Psalms 1:1-6 meditates day and night, what ever he does shall prosper

How any times have we missed out due to the lack of Personal righteousness?

What are you compromising at the moment and need to fight this battle for personal righteousness?

- The Battle for GRACIOUSNESS

Joseph would have his "No PDA" happening (public display of affection)

Then she drops the big one - I am pregnant.

He is thinking - I know it isn't me I have been doing everything by the book, maybe paperboy, pool cleaner. He battles through his anger, rage, disappointment and confusion and then he works through it and says "God how do you want me to deal with this, I will protect Mary" He extends grace.

Eph 4:6 we need to forgive each other completely.

Joseph once he makes the decision about not publicly humiliating Mary, then God turns and let's him know that yes she was right, isn't Joseph glad that he chose the right way. He processed before he spoke.

Thinking ahead now in a few weeks - people around the table at Christmas and people who have hurt you etc and will you deal with the dark emotions and grant them forgiveness and free them from grace. Not looking for he opportune time to dig in the boot. It is still a wound.

- The Battle of TRUST

We were going in this whole long engagement thing and then suddenly there is a short engagement and marriage. The whole village would be calculating the dates and say hey Joseph you have been mucking around with our Mary.

Both Joseph and Mary had to deal with the trust part

We have to deal with the trust part too - the Christmas story, his life and death, eternal life, trust it all.

Our options of not believing the Christmas story - when a group of them decide to turn away from Jesus, 'Peter are you going too? Where would I go? You alone have the words of life.' Peter said. How many leaders of the faith of the credentials of Jesus behind him.

What do I want in a God - to know that there

How do I cheat death? We all want something that says when this life is over - there is more than this something outside beyond death.

Do you believe? Joseph and Mary had to believe - they had to stake their lives on the dream that they had.

We have to trust that God will meet us there - in regards to health, job, family, business etc

Romans 8:28 all things work for good for those who trust in him
