



## **When God Interrupts With a Gift**

By Rev. Dr. D. Darrell Griffin, D.Min.

**A Sermon Resource From The Nativity Story**

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### **Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38**

**M**any times when we discuss the Nativity Story we rarely focus our attention on the life of Mary and Joseph. However, without them the Nativity Story would be incomplete. Their role might have been small but they were very significant.

God has a way of interrupting our lives and our plans with a gift that totally changes our lives forever. Our response to God's gift can determine where we will spend eternity. The life of Joseph and Mary is one that really unpacks the essence of God's giving. It was a very pivotal and precious moment for the both of them. They were probably excited about their wedding plans and future together. However, God interrupted their plans with a Gift. It was through the manifestation of a gift that they discovered the identity and character of the gift giver, God. Therefore, we must be mindful during the Christmas season the gifts that we give. The gifts that we give to our love ones are really a full expression of who we are and what we are.

The gift of God himself to Mary and Joseph catapulted their understanding of the Divine to a place that had not yet been visited by the two of them. This narrative breaks the 400 years of silence and crescendos with the full expression of God's love and compassion for humanity. When studying this context of compassion it is vital that we understand three important principles that God demonstrates when He gives a gift unto His people.

1. He chooses you for the gift (Matthew 1:18)



When He chose Mary and Joseph for the task of receiving His best gift to humanity, He never looked for someone of public notoriety. As a matter of fact God chose two people from shadows of anonymity. They did not ask for the gift. They did not earn the gift. And they definitely did not choose the gift. God gave them the gift out of the depths of His mercy. We must understand that when God gives us a gift, He gives us His gifts out of riches of His grace and multitude of His mercies. We can not earn it and we definitely can not buy it.

## 2. He challenges you with the gift (Matthew 1:19-20)

God showed up in the life of Joseph and Mary at an unexpected time. They were in the process of planning the rest of their lives together. Joseph had not yet touched Mary intimately. So at the announcement of the gift from God it posed a challenge to Joseph. He knew he had not yet touched Mary so for her to be pregnant with a child gave way to the thought of infidelity on the part of Mary. So as Joseph prepared to write Mary off privately, God shows up and helps him to understand that this gift isn't only for Mary but it is also for him.

What we will discover in life is that when God gives us a gift it presents a challenge to us because we have to make the decision to either accept it or reject. The sad case to this challenge is that more than often people reject God's gift because it **interrupts** their plans and their program. The challenge is not the gift itself but it is the challenge of accepting the gift that we often struggle with.

## 3. He charges you to take care of the gift (Matthew 1:24)

God knew that Joseph was struggling with the idea of his wife being pregnant without his participation so God shows up in life through a dream to reveal to him the full understanding of the importance of His gift to them. So after Joseph fully accepts it by **faith**, God charges him to take care of the gift.

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**REV. DR. D. DARRELL GRIFFIN** is the senior pastor at Oakdale Covenant Church in Chicago, Ill. He received his B.A. from Morehouse College, his M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School, and his Doctor of Ministry from North Park Theological Seminary in May 2006.