

## “Joseph, Your Uncertainty is OK”

A sermon by *The Skit Guys* organization

as part of their series, **The Glory of Christmas**.

Their sermon modified by Pastor Steve Easterday-McPadden  
for FUMC Grand Junction, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020

(\*Whole video clip from *The Skit Guys*\*)

(\*Briefly emphasize the idea of God using very ordinary people early in the Biblical narrative to set a “precedent” for those who would come later. This is not a minor point, but a major theme that we should not miss, lest we miss being able to see our place in God’s unfolding work of redemption and salvation in the world.\*)

Matthew’s gospel describes Joseph as “a just man,” who was also “just a man”. And he had fears and second thoughts about continuing in the relationship that he was in with Mary once he found out that she was pregnant...and not by him! Before Joseph ever stood in the stable of Bethlehem holding God in the flesh after Mary gave birth to Jesus, God first had to convince Joseph that he could do this assignment... that he could actually continue the precedent in God’s great story that would end up leading to **the Glory of Christmas**. We just heard **Matt / Amy** share with us how Matthew tells the story in his Gospel, “<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. ....”

As we think about Joseph and the role God invites him to play in the Christmas story, we see a beloved character who, quite frankly, probably had more than

one moment where he found himself scratching his head in wonder:

- How could I possibly be in a relationship like this?
- Who will ever believe a story like this about a girl like Mary and a guy like me?
- I never asked for a marriage like this.
- What will everybody think of me...of us?
- How can I be who God wants me to be when so much of this situation makes so little sense on the surface?

Why would God decide to identify someone like Joseph to play the role of Jesus’ earthly father? Because God consistently chooses the least likely people that ultimately bring God great glory when put in the position to do so.

You don’t have to be a theater major to know that the Joseph character that was depicted in the video was probably not at all what the Joseph in the Bible story of Christmas was really like on many levels. However, he likely was similar on at least one front that the director, Joel, spoke of towards the end of the scene:

“I understand that Joseph is radically underqualified for all he’s about to encounter. But isn’t that the type of people God uses? The most unlikely folks to do the biggest things. It seems like those are the ones He always picks because He is a God who will never give up on us.”

How many of us feel radically underqualified to handle what is on our plate in a way that gives glory to God this Christmas?

- If you are one who feels afraid about the future...uncertain about the instability of public health, the economy, the election...
- If you are one who feels inadequate to take care of your family like you think you should...
- If you are one who feels like you are in a dead-end job...
- If you are one who feels stretched between taking care of kids and aging parents...
- If you are one who feels misunderstood...
- If you are one who feels burned unjustly by what was posted on social media...
- If you are one who feels in over your head with responsibilities that were not part of your plan...

You are exactly the kind of person God desires to use to contribute incredibly to **the Glory of Christmas** this year. Although you may feel like the most unlikely person to do something great for God, He doesn't share your feeling! God will never give up on you. He wants you to know that He is with you and for you (Immanuel) this Christmas. He wants you to know that like Joseph, He desires you to trust Him and not be afraid in your circumstances. Day by day you can find courage and strength as you follow God's lead in your life to do and be all that He dreams of for you.

If you feel like you are the only one who is radically underqualified to do such a thing, remember, part of

**the Glory of Christmas** is that Christmas is about precedents from God. He regularly uses those who find themselves in less than ideal circumstances to bring Him the greatest glory. You have been uniquely positioned to step into the moment of this Christmas season, to not be afraid, to trust in God, and to make yourself fully available to Him no matter what happens. Like Joseph's...your uncertainty is OK! Remember what the angel of the Lord said to Joseph in his dream (Matthew 1:20)?

“Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife...”

What would God urge you not to be afraid of this Christmas season as you think about your life and the responsibilities before you today?

“<Name>, do not be afraid to \_\_\_\_\_.”

What is God asking you to step towards with faith in Him as you trust in Him and choose not to be afraid? If you feel radically underqualified, know that you are in good company from a precedence standpoint. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, David...and certainly Mary's husband, Joseph, *all* can identify with you in some way or another.

God wants to use your life and circumstances as part of **the Glory of Christmas** this year. Will you lean on God for that in the midst of the uncertainties of our time? The Scripture says,

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...” Matthew 1:24.

The question is, “Will you?” “Will I?”

TRANSITION to Holy Communion