

**CHANGED PLANS**  
**Ghosts of Christmas Past – Part 4**  
**December 24, 2017**

Sometimes a change in plans can rattle your faith.

**“God, where are You? Why are You allowing this to happen? What’s going on? This isn’t what I had planned.”**

**Luke 1:30-33 (NIV)** *“But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you are to call Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David,<sup>33</sup> and He will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; His kingdom will never end.”*

**Luke 1:38 (NIV)** *“ ‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’ Then the angel left her.”*

**Matthew 1:18 (NIV)** *“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.”*

**Matthew 1:19 (NIV)** *“Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”*

**You don’t have to understand the plan**

**to trust God has a purpose.**

**Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)** *“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”*

**What’s your new plan? Trust God’s Purpose.**

**Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV)** *“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.’ ”*

**Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)** *“ ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’ ”*

**Romans 8:28-29 (NIV)** *“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 image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*

**God’s purpose is to conform you to the image of Christ.**

**Sometimes God’s greatest invitations**

**feel like our worst interruptions.**

**Luke 2:6-7 (NIV)** *“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”*

**Matthew 2:13 (NIV)** *“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him.’ ”*

**Matthew 2:14 (NIV)** *“So he got up, took the Child and His mother during the night and left for Egypt.”*

**God has a purpose and you are that purpose.**

**John 3:16 (NIV)** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

**Matthew 1:21 (NIV)** *“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.”*

**Jesus is the Greek form of the name Joshua,**

**which means the Lord saves!**

**Sometimes a change in plans can strengthen your faith.**