

*Characters of
Christmas*

Joseph: an Example of
Trust

Matthew 1: 18 – 25

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.”

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

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ 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 – ⁸ “But if I go to the east, **he is not there**; if I go to the west, **I do not find him**. ⁹ 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**. ¹⁰ 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 –¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ 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 –²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also . . . ²⁴ 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 –¹³ 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. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ 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 –⁸ 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 –²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:35-39 –³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ 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 –⁵ 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 . . . ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance . . . ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.