



When Jesus Messes Up My Plans December 18-19, 2021

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

Jesus messed up:

- **King Herod's plan to rule the world.**
- **The shepherd's plan for a quiet evening.**
- **The religious leader's plan for a political take over.**
- **Mary's plan for a dream wedding.**
- **Joseph's plan for his first-born son.**

Has Jesus ever messed up your plans?

5 Reasons God will mess up my plans:

1 God is trying to **direct** me.

Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."

2 God is trying to **inspect** me.

James 1:2-3 (TPT)

"My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up in you the power of endurance."

3 God is trying to **correct** me.

Psalms 119:71-72 (CEV)

"When you corrected me, it did me good because it taught me to study your laws. I would rather obey you than have a thousand pieces of silver and gold."

4 God is trying to **protect** me.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

5 God is trying to **perfect** me.

James 1:4 (TPT)

"And then as your endurance grows even stronger, it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking."

This Christmas remember God's plans are best because:

- **God wants me to know his purpose for my life.**

Revelation 4:11 (TPT)

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things, and for your pleasure they were created and exist."

Matthew 1:20-21 (CEV)

"While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, 'Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'"

- **God wants me to improve my character in preparation for heaven.**

Romans 5:3-5 (TPT)

“But that’s not all! Even in times of trouble we have a joyful confidence, knowing that our pressures will develop in us patient endurance. And patient endurance will refine our character, and proven character leads us back to hope. And this hope is not a disappointing fantasy, because we can now experience the endless love of God cascading into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who lives in us!

- **God wants me to know him personally, not just know about him.**

Luke 2:10-11 (TPT)

“But the angel reassured them, saying, ‘Don’t be afraid, for I have come to bring you good news, the most joyous news the world has ever heard! And it is for everyone everywhere! For today in Bethlehem a rescuer was born for you. He is the Lord Yahweh, the Messiah.’”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (TPT)

“For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

December Memory Verse

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”



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