

Turning Inadequacy into Opportunity

June 20 & 21, 2026

STORIES
of
STRUGGLE

What makes me feel inadequate?

“What kind of man did God trust to raise His son?”

– Dr. Matt Jones

God did not _____ for Joseph;
He chose exactly the man He wanted to raise Jesus.

Joseph was:

1. _____.

Luke 2:22-24 (NIV)

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took [Jesus] to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Leviticus 12:8 (NIV)

But if she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.

Where am I allowing my circumstances to make me think God can't use me?

2. _____ and _____.

Leviticus 19:1-2 (NIV)

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”

Matthew 1:18-19a (NET)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man...

Matthew 1:19 (NET)

Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately.

Righteousness: Doing things God's way.

**Righteousness and compassion go hand in hand.
Compassion is the expression of a righteous heart.**

Where have I misunderstood God's law and God's heart?

3. _____ to godly habits.

Luke 2:41-42 (NIV)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

Jesus grew up in a family where God's way of living was taken seriously.

Where have I gotten lazy in my commitment to godly habits?

I Become a Person God Trusts When I:

1 Offer _____ and protection to the vulnerable.

Matthew 1:19-25 (ESV)

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel!"*

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

John 8:41 (ESV)

[The Jewish leaders] said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God."

Who has God given me to protect?

Matthew 1:24a (ESV)

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

Matthew 2:13-14 (ESV)

Now when [the Magi] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt.

Matthew 2:19-23 (ESV)

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

What has God already commanded me to do that I haven't done yet?

Luke 2:48-52 (ESV)

And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

What has God already trusted me with?

Luke 2:39-40 (ESV)

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Closing question: What will I get to witness if I am simply faithful?

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John 8:41 (ESV)

[The Jewish leaders] said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God."

Who has God given me to protect?

2

Respond quickly to God's guidance.

Matthew 1:24a (ESV)

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

Matthew 2:13-14 (ESV)

Now when [the Magi] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt.

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What has God already commanded me to do that I haven't done yet?

3

Trust God with my reputation and legacy.

Luke 2:48-52 (ESV)

And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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