



Redeeming Notes

Logan Wang, Pastoral Intern

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"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Matthew 1:18-25

*"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning."*

Psalm 130:5-6

Questions:

- 1) Can we wait for Jesus in such a **busy** way that we actually miss the moment?
- 2) Is our busy preparation killing our **spiritual awareness**?

The Example of Joseph:

- 1) At this point in his life, Joseph is **stressed** and **busy**.
"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." Matthew 1:19
- 2) Joseph breaks through to a point of **spiritual awareness**.
"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 as your wife...'" Matthew 1:20
- 3) Joseph **obeys** what he learns from God in the dream.
"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife." Matthew 1:24

The Challenges:

- 1) Can you put the **busy things** aside?
- 2) Will you raise your **spiritual awareness**?
- 3) Will you **act** on what God shows you?

God's Two-Part Christmas Mission:

- 1) **Jesus** - "To save his people from sin" (Matthew 1:21)
- 2) **Immanuel** - "To be with his people" (Matthew 1:23)

Spiritual Awareness Raising Practices:

- 1) Set aside **Sabbath time**.
- 2) Set aside **more Sabbath time**.
- 3) Keep one ear open to **people** and one ear open to **God**.
- 4) Make a one week commitment to **prayer and scripture**.
- 5) **Prioritize** your holiday plans.
- 6) Be **deliberate** about what you do this holiday season.

The Final Word

Luke 2:19 - "**But** Mary treasured up all these things..."

READING PLAN: *Take some Sabbath time this week to raise your spiritual awareness by reading God's word, asking: 1) What does it say in general? 2) What is it directly saying to me? 3) How can I apply it in my life?*

Monday - Isaiah 7

Tuesday - Psalm 130

Wednesday - Romans 1:1-7

Thursday - Matthew 1

Friday - Luke 2