

# Christmas Blessings

PART 1

## Unexpected Blessings

NOVEMBER 24 & 25, 2012 • MARK SPURLOCK

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. *Isaiah 55:8*

### Look for unexpected blessings when...

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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 1:18*

• God often \_\_\_\_\_ in order to \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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. *Matthew 1:19*

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. 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.” *Matthew 1:20–21*

• God often \_\_\_\_\_ before he \_\_\_\_\_ .

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel!” which means “God with us.”\* *Matthew 1:22–23*

(\* From Isaiah 7:14, written around 735 B.C.)



TWIN LAKES  
MINISTRIES  
www.tlc.org

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *Matthew 1:24–25*

• God never \_\_\_\_\_ where his grace cannot \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The greatest and most unexpected blessing of all:**

\_\_\_\_\_ !

“...what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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.” *Matthew 1:20b–21*

## Daily Meditations

### Monday

Please read Isaiah 55:8. What did you learn in last weekend’s sermon about the truth of this verse? How have you seen that in your own life?

Where in your life is it hard for you see the unexpected as a blessing right now?

*Thank God today that He works in all circumstances. Thank Him for the peace He gives. Talk to Him about your struggles to see His blessings in your life.*

### Tuesday

Please read Matthew 1:18. Put yourself in Joseph’s shoes today. To say that his plans were interrupted is quite an understatement!

Sometimes getting our plans interrupted is simply annoying and other times it puts us in a crisis. How do you typically respond to interruptions?

How have you seen God use simple interruptions in your life? How have you seen Him use a major interruption?

*Thank God today that interruptions can have meaning. Pray that as you encounter interruptions of all types you’ll have a “looking for God” attitude.*

### Wednesday

Please read Matthew 1:19–23. Isn’t it interesting that while Joseph and Mary’s lives were being interrupted, the prayer of hundreds of years was about to be answered for the whole nation of Israel!

Write down one thing you’ve prayed years for. What do you think went through Joseph’s mind as he waited for Jesus to be born?

What temptations do you face when you’re waiting for God to answer prayer?

How have you seen God grow you while you we’re waiting?

*Thank God today for His love for you and His plan for you. Talk to God about your struggles with His timing. Pray for faith to trust Him and joy while you wait.*

### Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving! Please read Psalm 136 today.

*Take some time today to write down 10 things you are thankful for and then spend time in prayer thanking God for those blessings.*

### Friday

Please read Matthew 1:24–25. What have you learned about Joseph’s character this week? How does this encourage or challenge you?

Think about an area of your life where you’re waiting right now. How is this wait testing your obedience?

How do you think your obedience in waiting demonstrates God’s grace? Is there a situation where God is also asking you to extend grace?

*Thank God for not only saving you by grace, but also for sustaining you by His grace every day...including today!*

### Saturday

*Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that God will use our church this holiday season to reach our community for Christ!*



Memory Verse

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways are my ways,” declares the LORD. *Isaiah 55:8*