



Christmas
through their eyes

Matthew 1:18-25

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When life goes wrong, do the right thing, the God-honoring way.


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


If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death - the young woman because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24a

1. Someone betrothed is also referred to as a man's wife.
2. The law advocates stoning but there's no indication that this was practiced in Galilee in Joseph's days.
3. The law seems harsh on women, but the text presupposes compliance.




When we think about justice, the principles of retribution and equality dominate.



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



A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering
wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will
bring forth justice.

Isaiah 42:3

Romans 2:1-4

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will

escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:1-4

We don't seek justice
without showing compassion.



When life goes wrong, we must
reprocess our emotions

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.

Matthew 1:20

Considered

ἐνθυμέομαι enthumeomai

compound

en (NT1722) - in, on, at, by, with

thumos (NT2372) - angry, temper, upset, rage, wrath

‘in, by, with anger, temper, rage, wrath.’

thumos

Luke 4:28 - All the people in the synaḡogue were furious when they heard this.

Matthew 2:16 - When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Maḡi, he was furious.

Acts 10:19 - While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you."


How does anger get recycled as grace?






A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a
harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1



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 1:20b-21




“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Ephesians 4:26

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



When we see Christmas through Joseph's eyes, we change our perspective on our emotions, and allow our anger to be recycled as an expression of compassionate grace.



Central

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A CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

SPECIAL GUEST ERIC SAMUEL TIMM

DECEMBER 21 & 22 • 7 PM

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