

12/17/2017

## “No U Turn”

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Series: “Signs of the Season”

*“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*

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As we continue our series of monologues and messages on Signs of the Season, we heard and reflect on the witness of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

What is it about Joseph and his story that stands out to you the most that you can perhaps relate to?

Matthew tells us that . . .

### † **Joseph was a righteous man**

That is, he lived in faith and right relationship with God and others by striving to keep the teachings of the law and the prophets of God. Perhaps you are like Joseph in that way. Or, maybe you still struggle with making good choices and doing what’s right as often as you’d like.

Where are you in your relationship with God and others?

### † **The angel told Joseph that the child to be born to Mary was of God -- conceived from the Holy Spirit**

Although Joseph would someday return to Nazareth and life as he knew it in some ways, others would never be fully the same.

I still remember moving out to Wyoming when I was twenty four years old. I had been out of college for four years. Over that time my relationship with God and my spiritual path had led me away from furthering my undergraduate major into professional life. I felt a new calling and followed a journey that would bring me a new family, a seminary degree, ordination into the United Methodist Church and serving eight congregations in three states – and that was just the first twenty years! The last seventeen years have seen so many more changes in all of those ways. And though God made it possible for me to return to the place that I call home, it was never quite the same. But that is all part of growing in the Spirit.

Has God called you to do something that requires greater faith and responsibility; leaving behind a familiar life; either good or bad?

It would not have been possible for me without having a strong personal relationship with God and the support of those who love me.

Who and what do you rely upon for guidance, strength and support?

† **The angel told Joseph that Jesus (Yeshua or Joshua in Hebrew) would save his people from their sins**

I know that is personally true for me.

Have you considered/accepted Jesus as your Savior? If not, I invite you to do so now. Simply pray with me: “Lord Jesus, forgive my sins and come into my heart. I receive you as my Savior and Lord.” If you have said this prayer, you are reborn. I encourage you to join in further fellowship and learn as a follower of Jesus. Speak with me or others for more ways to do this.

And may you ever know the steadfast love and power of the Lord in your life each day!