

Sermon Notes

Marrying a Scandal

Advent 3 2021 Matthew 1:18-25

WHEN GOD INTERVENES IN YOUR LIFE

When God breaks into your life, your job is to respond with faith and openness that allows creative relationship with you and the divine.

Sometimes God calls us to be like Joseph, a person in a supporting role – and that is not always easy.

CHANGE OF PLANS

Divorce rate among couples over the age of 51 increases by 6% when the woman becomes chronically or terminally ill. And divorce rates among couple under age 40 increase men become too injured to work.

The problem with our little plans is that we give them more attention than we do to what God may be asking of us.

DREAMS AND PLANS

Matthew 1:20-21 *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."*

Dreams brought from God can seem dangerous because they disrupt our lives, and they seldom lead where we think they should.

But what is most dangerous about our plans is their narrow focus hiding God's bigger dreams and distracting us from God's call on our lives.

GOD'S BIG DREAM

God dreams that we will join Joseph by taking on the great scandals of the world as we bring them home, pray for their needs, and give ourselves to their healing.

We cannot hold onto baby Jesus, just receiving his comfort as we cradle him to our breast.

No, if you accept the baby Jesus, he takes your heart and calls you into the world of sin and scandals.