

## *A Family Doing God's Will Pause 2*

*"21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:21-24 KJV)*

Christ was born to his family by a woman under the law, therefore he needed to go along what the law of God required. *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." (Galatians 4:4 KJV)* Each and every family God had purpose for them and they need to achieve that purpose. The purpose of God will be known to each and every family from the Word of God.

*1. Christ needed to be circumcised: "21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb." (Luke 2:21 KJV)* Christ needed to be circumcised according to what the Word of God dictates on them at that time, *"1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. 3 And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised." (Leviticus 12:1-3 KJV)* The baby circumcised on the eight day and he was named 'Jesus' *which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.* The angel of God announced to Joseph and to Mary separately the name of the child before they come together when he announced to them that Christ will be conceived by the Holy Ghost. To Joseph we can read that in Matthew 1, *"18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:18-21 KJV)* To Mary, we can read that in Luke 1, *"28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." (Luke 1:28-31 KJV)* The angel needed to announce to both of them because they have not yet come together. Again here we learn about the preparation for Godly marriage, that man and woman should not communicate to one another before marriage. Christ circumcised, but now circumcision is no more required to those who come to believe in Christ, because the Word of God had annulled it as we read here: *"Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing." (Galatians 5:2 KJV)*

But today all of us required to be circumcised from our sinful nature by Christ, *"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." (Colossians 2:12 KJV)* and by The Holy Spirit, *"28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." (Romans 2:28-29 KJV)* God wants us to be totally changed and transformed by getting rid of our sinful nature and from attitudes and behaviours that are contradicting to the Word of God and the will of God.

*2. Christ's family needed to go to the temple in Jerusalem and present their offering of "a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest." (Leviticus 12:6 KJV):* Therefore, *"22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:22-24 KJV)* This was dictated to them from God's Word in Leviticus 12, *"4 And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. 5 But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days. 6 And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: 7 Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. 8 And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean." (Leviticus 12:4-8 KJV)* So here we can see that each and every family needed to be connected with the church and the life of the church through the instructions of God's Word. Each and every family needed to bring their offerings to the Lord of various kinds, in addition to their tithes and other things that they need to give. Even for the poor families they still can give and bring to the temple of the Lord if they are willing to give. Christ's family were not able to give a lamb, so they followed what the law of God gives consideration: *"8 And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean." (Leviticus 12:8 KJV)* Therefore after Mary finished her days of purification they presented Jesus to the Lord in the temple and they offered a pair of turtle doves, *"22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:22-24 KJV)*

*3. Christ's family presented their first fruit to the Lord in redeeming their first born, "23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)" (Luke 2:23 KJV):* Christ was the first born child and they need to redeem Him

according to the Law of the Lord, ***“15 Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem. 16 And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.” (Numbers 18:15-16 KJV)*** We learn from the example of this family that each and every family and each and every member of the church is recommended to bring his first fruit to the Lord.

**4. Christ’s family travelled long distances in order to obey the calling of God in their lives:** To start with, let us speak about Mary when the angel announced to her that she will be pregnant with the Holy Ghost and that even her cousin is already pregnant in her sixth month, how she travelled to see her cousin Elizabeth.

**A.** That was her first journey from the city of Nazareth to Hebron to confirm the message of the angel, ***“39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.” (Luke 1:39-40 KJV)*** Which is around 100 miles distance (32 hours walking) Mary did it while she is pregnant.

**B.** Mary did the same trip when she was on the third month of her pregnancy, ***“And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.” (Luke 1:56 KJV)***

After Joseph took Mary, they did more trips in order to obey God as we can read here:

**C.** Joseph and Mary travelled while Mary was pregnant from the city of Nazareth to Bethlehem, ***“4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:4-5 KJV)*** This trip is around 84 miles in distance (27 hours walking).

**D.** Joseph and Mary travelled with the child Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem which is around 5 miles in distance (Less than 2 hours walk).

Luke wrote the followings at the end of the visit of Joseph and Mary to the temple: ***“And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.” (Luke 2:39 KJV)*** Luke searched more before he wrote and when he wrote about the birth of Jesus and events that accompany it he did not repeat what Matthew had wrote. So when Luke mentioned here, ***“And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.” (Luke 2:39 KJV)*** What he means is that, they returned after they performed all things according to the Law of the Lord including what is also written in Matthew that Luke did not repeat in his gospel.

In reading the book of Matthew we can see that there are other events and trips this family had endured in order to fulfill the law of God in their lives.

**E.** After they finished their visit to Jerusalem this family need to go back to Bethlehem to get the direction from the Lord where needed to go and move. So they endured another trip of around 5 miles distance (less than 2 hours walk). While they were there they were visited by the

wise men, who came traveling long distance from the east looking for the new born King of the Jews. ***“1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” (Matthew 2:1-13 KJV)***

The visit of the wise men cannot be before the visit of the family to Jerusalem, when the child Jesus was forty days in age, because here we read that when the wise men departed the Lord commissioned Joseph to go immediately to Egypt. Let us here mention good things about the wise and learn from what they did: They travel long distance to seek and find the Lord, they did not give up when they did not find him in Jerusalem, they did not satisfy to meet Herod the king, or the other religious leaders. But they followed what God was leading them to follow. They open up their treasures and offered to Jesus, and they protected the child and his family; yes they protected God’s church from the enemies that they wanted to destroy it.

Herod, the enemy of the church inquired well about the time of Jesus and wanted to destroy him and destroy Christ’s mission, ***“16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.” (Matthew 2:16-18 KJV)*** Now if the enemy searched about the time and use the time to do mischief, then how much more today God’s church, should search the time and understand what is God’s will for His people and do what is right. Everything was taken place to fulfill the Scriptures, even the death of the children of Bethlehem. The responsibility of the church today not to judge events and question God, why and why that had happened, but to obey the instruction and move in obedience to God’s Word instruction, and the voice of God, the Holy Ghost. We learn also from here that in our spiritual battle we need to rely on God to protect and to trust Him that He will speak to us of what we need to do.

**F.** The family travelled from Bethlehem to Egypt, *“13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15 KJV)* This to fulfill the Scripture, *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.” (Hosea 11:1 KJV)* Nothing clearly mentioned up to which point this family travelled into Egypt. But if this family had travelled up to Cairo City today, then the distance from Bethlehem to that point is around 307.7 miles (99 hours walking).

**G.** *“19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 2:19-23 KJV)* This is another journey where this family travelled back up to the city of Nazareth, and the distance of this trip is around 392 miles (126 hours walking).

We can see that in these major events in the life of the family God was speaking to Joseph and not Mary. Truly that Mary was carrying the baby Jesus, and this might be the highest ministry that ever a woman would be honored with. But still she was under the leadership of man, Joseph, her righteous husband. Before became together God was speaking to each one of them, but after they come together, God was speaking to Joseph being the head of the family, instructing him what he needs to do for his family. God is keen to keep the order inside the family; man is the head and the woman in the meet helper, who should be willing to be led by her husband.

In the three last dreams that is recorded in the Scriptures after the birth of Jesus, God spoke to Joseph and not to Mary. Joseph led Mary and she was willing to be led by him and the family went smoothly through the trials and the ministry and the church continued. The point here is that God is keen to keep the order inside the family, that the man should be the head of the family and He is the one whose head is Christ, and need to lead the family to achieve the purpose of God.

Paul wrote the following in describing his right, *“Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?” (1 Corinthians 9:5 KJV)* He did not say the right to marry a wife, but the power to lead a Sister, a wife. Paul what was telling is that he has the right to be supported by the church, even to the point that the church should support his wife and children. The power to lead a sister, a wife, is to receive the full support from the church to the family that he is leading. The Greek word that he use for ‘power’ is ‘exousia’, and the meaning of it can be the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed. So if the church is compelled to support Paul and his family, then the wife need to be willing to follow the leading of Paul, who is supporting her living, from what the church is providing for him.

So in regard to marriage, the rule of the man is to lead a sister in the Lord into the will of God and the commands of God. In preparation for Godly marriage the man and woman need to prepare themselves to obey such vital truth. The man should be ready to lead his family, provide for them and manage their affairs. The woman should be ready to be led by the man and not to live independent from him. Good number of men they are not willing to lead and they want the wife to lead them and that is failing God. Many women they want to lead and go ahead of their husbands and in that they create lot of disharmony in the family and lot of confusion. Many men when their wives do as such, because they don’t want to stand firm and rebuke their wives, you found them moving away from God as Adam moved away from serving God and accomplishing his purpose. When Woman refused to be led by her husband that is sin, but the more worse of that is when the man refuse to offend his wife just because he fear her anger and wanted to please her.

**My dear and beloved:** Harmony with the Scriptures is needed so that we can be able to grasp God’s will, do our assignments well and finally accomplish the will of God. Let us apply and put into practice the important points that we had learned in this message. God will sustain us and watch over us and provide our needs as we agree to do His will.

**My Prayer:** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.

Lord I confess to you my sins \_\_\_\_\_. Let us confess our sins to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to serve you according to the principles that I learn from your Word. Lord leads me to apply this message of yours faithfully in my life, in my family, and in my ministry. Lord I ask you to protect me, provide for me and lead me with your Holy Spirit to do what is right and just.

Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters to abide with the instructions, and enable them to see your goodness through your Word that you send to bring them a good life and life to the full. Lord gives them willingness to be transformed and to do the very things that you want them to do. Lord provides all their needs and leads them to be good examples to the people around them and to the whole world.

Lord bless your church and make your church grow. Help us Lord to evangelize and reach the lost and to plant more Bible studies to teach your Word and your commands. . Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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