

V. ALLOW GOD TO DEVELOP YOUR **PATIENCE**

A. It's hard to not know how **long** something will last.
*"1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having
sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy
be exalted over me?"* Psalm 13:1-2

B. Wait on God for His **perfect timing**.
*"But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their
strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk
and not faint."* Isaiah 40:31

**CHRISTMAS MIRACLES ~
WHEN GOD STEPS INTO YOUR LIFE**

Joseph: God Steps Into The Messy
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Impossible. Messy. Interrupted. Do any of these things describe your life as the year comes to a close? This Christmas discover how God can step into your life when you need a miracle!

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us," Ephesians 3:20

B. In this series you will discover four Christmas miracles. You will also learn how God stepped into lives the first Christmas and how He can step into your life.

Dec 4	Mary: God Steps Into The Impossible
TODAY	Joseph: God Steps Into The Messy
Dec 18	The Shepherds: God Steps Into The Interrupted
Dec 25	Jesus: God Steps Into The World

**THE MOST MESSY THING WAS OUR SALVATION
AND GOD MADE THAT HAPPEN**

*"In this the love of God was manifested toward us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through Him."* I John 4:9

C. **TEXT:** Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible/Pg. 945/New Test.)

HOW GOD STEPS INTO THE MESSY

I. EXPECT THE MESSY (1:18)

- A. Joseph and Mary had been planning a wedding until God told them to prepare a nursery.

“Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1

- B. Realize your Christmas plans could also change.

“13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” James 4:13-15

II. DO NOT BE AFRAID (1:19-20a)

- A. Don't be afraid of negative opinions.

“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” Psalm 118:6

- B. Don't be afraid of tough circumstances.

“He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”

Deuteronomy 32:4

- C. Don't be afraid of an unknown future.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

III. TRUST GOD EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND (1:20b-25)

- A. God's plans are infinite and your understanding is limited.

“8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

- B. Faith begins where human understanding ends.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

IV. OBEY GOD EVEN WHEN IT'S COSTLY (2:13-15)

- A. You will pay a price to serve God.

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” II Timothy 3:12

- B. Your sacrificial service will be noticed and blessed by God.

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”

Matthew 19:29