

## **Christmas: Finding Purpose**

Matthew 1:18-23 and Proverbs 16:9

*Many are the **plans** in a person's heart,  
but it is the Lord's **purpose** that **prevails**.* Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

*We humans keep brainstorming options and plans,  
but God's purpose prevails.* Proverbs 19:21 (The Message)

**Heart:** purpose, intentions, thoughts and understanding.

The heart is the that central agency and facility within man whereby he imagines, intends, purposes, thinks, and understands." The *Encyclopedia of the Bible*. It is more than emotions (although it includes emotions).

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*The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,  
and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?* Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

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*Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this:*  
Psalm 37:4-5

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Introduce Prayer

Music

Sermon Part 2

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*18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be*

*pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 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.*

*20 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. 21 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."*

*22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:18-2*

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### **Mary had a plan.**

*His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph.*

— Mary's plans were interrupted

\*Some of us want to control what happens.

\*Some of us want to control what everyone else things.

Desire to control is caused by a lack of faith.

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### **God had a purpose.**

*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. (vs.21)*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.*

*Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

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### **Finding my purpose at Christmas**

— We don't usually have the power to control  
but we always have the power to surrender.

— Every time Mary chose to surrender, God showed up.

\*\*God sent an angel to Joseph.

*But after he had considered this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream (vs. 21)*

— We don't have to understand the plan to believe that God has a purpose.

**What is it that you are trying to control that God wants you to surrender?**

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**What do I do about it this Christmas?**

— Follow the example of Mary.

*Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me  
come true." And then the angel left her. Luke 1:38*

\*\*Waking moment

\*\*Working moment

\*\*Waning moment

**Little by little we fix what is broken.**

**Little by little we grow.**