

THE CHRISTMAS NO ONE EXPECTED

WHAT'S IN YOUR MANGER SCENE?

Luke 1:26 – 2:20/ Matthew 1:18-23

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BE “BLESSED”?

Luke 1:26-55/ Luke 2:1-20/ Matthew 1:18-23

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN GOD STARTS TO WORK IN OUR LIFE

- ❶ Expect some **Hardship**
Luke 9:23-24/ Acts 14:21-22/ 1 Peter 4:12-19
- ❷ Expect some **Confusion**
Isaiah 55:8-9/ Hebrews 11:6/ Proverbs 3:5-6
- ❸ Expect God's **Protection**
1 Corinthians 10:13/ 2 Thessalonians 3:3/ Psalm 34:15-19/ Romans 8:35-39
- ❹ Expect God's **Provision**
Philippians 4:19/ 2 Peter 1:3-4/ Ephesians 1:17-20/ Psalm 23:4-5/ Luke 10:17-20
- ❺ Expect **Everything To Be Worth It All**
Jeremiah 20:11/ John 10:10/ Ephesians 2:10/ Romans 8:28

THE CHRISTMAS NO ONE EXPECTED

WHAT'S IN YOUR MANGER SCENE?

Luke 1:26 – 2:20/ Matthew 1:18-23

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BE “BLESSED”?

Luke 1:26-55/ Luke 2:1-20/ Matthew 1:18-23

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN GOD STARTS TO WORK IN OUR LIFE

❶ Expect some _____
Luke 9:23-24/ Acts 14:21-22/ 1 Peter 4:12-19

❷ Expect some _____
Isaiah 55:8-9/ Hebrews 11:6/ Proverbs 3:5-6

❸ Expect God's _____
1 Corinthians 10:13/ 2 Thessalonians 3:3/ Psalm 34:15-19/ Romans 8:35-39

❹ Expect God's _____
Philippians 4:19/ 2 Peter 1:3-4/ Ephesians 1:17-20/ Psalm 23:4-5/ Luke 10:17-20

❺ Expect _____
Jeremiah 20:11/ John 10:10/ Ephesians 2:10/ Romans 8:28

Food for Thought for the week of December 19, 2010

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. We heard this weekend how God was at work to protect and provide for Joseph and Mary even though they were often unaware of it. The same is true for us. God is at work in those puzzling times when we wonder if He's even aware of what's going on in our life. Below are some verses that speak to how God works beyond our immediate circumstances. Look up each one and write the main point in your own words.

Psalm 55:22

Romans 8:26-27

1 Corinthians 15:58

Philippians 1:6

Ephesians 3:19-20

Ephesians 6:7-8

Can you look back and identify a time in your life where God was at work even though at the time you didn't recognize Him? What did you learn about God through that time?

How has your faith and trust in Him been affected as a result?

If you had a friend come to you concerned and confused because they felt God had abandoned them in the midst of a trial, what advice or counsel would you give them?

2. The news that Mary was pregnant and unwed was a tough one to explain and it was met with negative responses from others. Yet, knowing this was a God-thing, Mary responded with a prayer of praise. Read through her prayer in Luke 1:46-55 and write down all the things for which Mary praises God.

Now take a moment to express your own prayer of praise for all that God has done and provided for you.