

## Christmas Eve graphic

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The main characters of Christmas initially did not want to be part of Christmas.

- Joseph: pregnant fiancé → divorce
- Mary: “deeply troubled” & hung up on “How...?”

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Why?

Tension:       Where we are vs. Where we want to be  
Confusion:     God’s work & God’s will

### 3 Default Assumptions We Make:

- **Convenient** for us
- **Popular** with others
- **Relative** to our situation

Challenge:

God’s work & will: **not** convenient, **not** popular, **not** relative

### I Samuel 24:1-4a

When **Saul** returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “**David** is in the wilderness near En-gedi.”<sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand of Israel’s fit young men and went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.<sup>3</sup> When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave,<sup>4</sup> so they said to him, “Look, **this is the day the Lord told you about**: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’” Then David **got up** ...

### I Samuel 24:4b-7

... Then David **got up** and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe. <sup>5</sup>Afterward, David's **conscience bothered** him because he had cut off the corner of Saul's robe. <sup>6</sup>He said to his men, "As the Lord is my witness, I would never do such a thing to my lord, **the Lord's anointed**. I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the Lord's anointed." <sup>7</sup>With these words David **persuaded** his men, and he did not let them rise up against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way.

**"Everybody" sees opportunity but David sees temptation.**

**Emotions of the moment**

- ☒When emotions are high self-deception is easy.
- ☒Self-deception looks like self-justification.

**We cannot achieve God's purposes by violating His principles.**

- ☒Where we are going AND how we get there.

**The Role of Conscience:**

- Must be "set"
- What "sets" it??

### **Luke 1:35-38**

The angel replied to her, "**The Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God ... For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>"See, **I am the Lord's servant,**" said Mary. "May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

### **Matthew 1:18-21,24**

The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the **Holy Spirit**. <sup>19</sup>So her husband, **Joseph**, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the **Holy Spirit**. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" ... When Joseph woke up, he **did as the Lord's angel had commanded** him. He married her ...

**Set the conscience to honor the Presence of the Lord.**

**The greater the "sense" of God and His presence, the greater "sense" of sin.**

**Getting somewhere in life never supersedes becoming someone that God can entrust with His purposes and special presence.**

### **Revelation 22:3-5**

**No longer** will there be **a curse** upon anything. For the **throne of God and of the Lamb** will be there, and His servants will **worship** Him. <sup>4</sup>And they will see His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the **Lord God will shine** on them. And they will **reign** forever and ever.

**Am I becoming a person who can enjoy heaven?**

### **1 Samuel 24:8-15**

After that, David got up, went out of the cave, and called to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David knelt low with his **face to the ground** and paid homage. <sup>9</sup>David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of people who say, ‘Look, David intends to harm you’? <sup>10</sup>You can see with your own eyes that the Lord handed you over to me today in the cave. Someone advised me to kill you, but I took pity on you and said: I won’t lift my hand against my lord, since he is the Lord’s anointed. <sup>11</sup>Look, my father! Look at the corner of your robe in my hand, for I cut it off, but I didn’t kill you. Recognize that I’ve committed no crime or rebellion. **I haven’t sinned against you** even though you are hunting me down to take my life. <sup>12</sup>“May the Lord judge between me and you, and may the Lord take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you. <sup>13</sup>As the old proverb says, ‘Wickedness comes from wicked people.’ My hand will never be against you. <sup>14</sup>Who has the king of Israel come after? What are you chasing after? A dead dog? A single flea? <sup>15</sup>**May the Lord be judge** and decide between you and me. May He take notice and plead my case and deliver me from you.”

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**How can he be humble?**

**How can he not be angry & bitter?**

**How can he display kindness to his enemy?**

**How would we act if we really believed that God was always WITH us and FOR us?**

### **Romans 2:4**

Or do you despise the **riches of His kindness, restraint, and patience**, not recognizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to **repentance**?

### **I Samuel 24:16-22**

When David finished saying these things to him, Saul replied, "Is that your voice, David my son?" Then Saul **wept aloud**<sup>17</sup> and said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is **good to me** though I have done what is **evil to you**."<sup>18</sup> You yourself have told me today what good you did for me: when the Lord handed me over to you, you didn't kill me.<sup>19</sup> When a man finds his enemy, does he let him go unharmed? May the Lord repay you with good for what you've done for me today.

<sup>20</sup> "Now I know for certain **you will be king**, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand."<sup>21</sup> Therefore swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."<sup>22</sup> So David swore to Saul. Then Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

*{one at a time}*

**Repentance is not emotion in the moment.**

**Repentance is more than agreement.**

**Repentance is a real change in direction ...**

**Repentance and obedience come from the same place:**

**☑Knowing all that God has DONE and will do for His people.**

### **Matthew 1:21-23**

And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"