Life does not always go the way we planned.
God does not always do what we think He should do.

God's plans for my life have almost never been my plans for my life.

We will experience disappointment.
= product of unmet expectations.

Our expectations will never point us toward nor take us to the goodness and wisdom of God.

Matthew 1:18 (CSB)
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.

Matthew 1:19 (CSB)
So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

Disappointment (discouragement) can give rise to resentment and resistance.

Matthew 1:20 (CSB)
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.

Key need in dealing with disappointment: preserve (or regain) openness to God

a) **Avoid a fretful spirit (exasperation; anxious)**

Psalm 37:8

- ***Refrain from anger … give up rage***
- ***Fret not // Do not be agitated***

Key need in dealing with disappointment: preserve (or regain) openness to God

a) **Avoid a fretful spirit → Right view of God**
b) **Avoid impulsivity (~rush; hurry)**
c) **Avoid prayerlessness**
d) **Avoid being fear-driven**

Fear // Discouragement: somethings cannot grow in a discouraged soul.

- **Power of God**
- **Joy & Hope**
- **Love**

Matthew 1:21 (CSB)
She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The disappointment is a divine appointment.

Joseph's Perspective:

1) **Release the life you expected.**
    a. **A "no" can direct us but never define us!**
2) **Embrace the life God is directing.**
    a. **Yes! to Jesus**

Matthew 1:22-23 (CSB)
Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
[23] *See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel*, which is translated "*God is with us*."

Matthew 1:24-25 (CSB)
When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her [25] but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

Decision Points:

1) **The value and worth of Jesus ...??**
2) **The power of self-determination but no right to self-determination**

The only proper spiritual response: obedience

- **Obedience does not always make life easier**
- **Obedience has consequences.**
- **Obedience is for all of life**

Areas of Obedience:

- **Moral obedience**
- **Situational obedience**

- **Attitude/emotional obedience**

Obedience is about *Emmanuel* = God with us!