

“DO NOT BE AFRAID”

Luke 1:30

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- **As beautiful as the story of Jesus’s birth is, have you ever consider how much of it involved uncertainty, difficulty and fear?**
 - **What must have been going through Joseph’s mind, when he found out Mary was pregnant?**
 - **What must have been going through Mary’s mind when she faced the prospect of having to tell Joseph?**

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- How about when your wife is in labor and there are no rooms available for the delivery?**
- What about when the wise men were warned not to go back to Herod?**
- Or, when Joseph was told to leave his home country and go to Egypt because Herod was going to seek the child to destroy him?**

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- **So, there is surrounding this story.....**
 - **A man and a woman working through the issues of a marriage on the verge of divorce!**
 - **The navigating of the tricky political circumstances for the wise men and Joseph.**
 - **The stress associated with household relocation and job replacement.**

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- **This holiday season, I have heard the song by the group Alabama entitled, “Angels Among Us” several times.**
- **I was reminded that in each of these situations there was an angel present to ease the fear and offer guidance.**
- **Heb. 1:14**

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- **Matt. 1:20- “....do not fear.”**
- **Luke 1:30- “....do not be afraid.”**
- **Luke 2:10- “....fear not.”**
- **All of this fear was met with faith.**
- **What difficulties are we facing in life? Do we trust God enough to overcome our fears through faith in his guidance?**

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- **Ultimately, the story of Jesus’s birth should teach us to have faith and not fear!!**
- **Because of Jesus, we don’t have to fear...**
 - **The uncertainties of a changing world.- I John 5:3-5**
 - **The challenges of unfortunate circumstances.- Heb. 13:6**
 - **The reality of death.- Heb. 2:14-16**