

HANDLE WITH COURAGE

Christmas in Joseph's Hands

Text: Matthew 1:18-25: John 1:4-5

Handling Christmas (Part 3)

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Describe a time in your life when something happened that you experienced as a total catastrophe. What was it about this event that was so cataclysmic? How it affect you?
2. Of the various ways of handling a catastrophe, which of the following have you tried? How has this worked for you? What are the pro's and con's of these approaches?
 - GO COLD -- *"I'm going to numb myself"*
 - GET HOT -- *"I will rage and get payment"*
 - GO UNDERGROUND -- *"I'll pretend nothing's wrong"*
 - GET AWAY -- *"I'll get some distance on this"*
3. Joseph displayed a remarkable trust and obedience toward God in the midst of devastating circumstances. Could you imagine yourself responding the way he did? Do you find it easier, harder, or about the same level of difficulty to trust God and obey his commandments in tumultuous seasons of life? Why is that?
4. Describe a time when you were surprised by how light came out of darkness or good out of something very painful. What does this say about Go or about you?
5. What is one area or situation in your life where you sense God may be calling you to exercise a daring TRUST? What is one thing you are doing or could be doing to OBEY his commandments him in these circumstances?