

Immanuel

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”—Matthew 1:23

Has anyone ever call attention to something about your appearance or something you have done. The words were cruel and caused you anguish. Most of us have been the recipient of some form of embarrassment that we did not deserve. Something we tried to say and it came out all wrong or maybe we tried to do something and it was misunderstood. Perhaps a parent, a friend, or a boss, blamed us for something we did not do. My children, now grown, are quick to tell me of all the injustices that I perpetrated when they were blamed for an act of a sibling. I remember being humiliated by a teacher. I felt so stupid and I was sure everyone was critical of me.

Can you imagine how Joseph felt when he was told the Mary was pregnant? He was a good man and I am certain he loved Mary. A period of engagement should be a joyous time, one of anticipation of future blessing. As people started talking, this just man had to encounter distain; people whispering and sneering behind his back or even to his face.

The angel came to Joseph with a message that would ease his anxiety and encourage him to do what God intended. How relieved and refocused Joseph must have been to know that his Mary was actually in the center of God’s will.

A day that started out with a heavy burden had turned to one of great blessing. The people still talked and snickered. But, Joseph had the assurance that he was doing God’s will and God had a great plan ahead. “God with us.” He was confident of God’s presence in his life and the life of his family.