**Unexpected Blessings**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.* Isaiah 55:8

I. Your PLANS Get Interrupted

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.* Matthew 1:18

God often INTERRUPTS us in order to USE us.

II. Your PROBLEMS Aren’t Immediately Addressed

*And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.* Matthew 1:19

*But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:20-21

God often STRETCHES us before He ANSWERS us.

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:* *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).* Matthew 1:22-23

III. Your PATH Demonstrates Grace

*When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.* Matthew 1:24-25

God never CALLS us where His grace cannot KEEP us.

*“…for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.* *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:20b-21

**One Last Thought:** God wants to give you the greatest Christmas blessing of all: HIMSELF!