

**THE OPENING:**

- IF I WERE TO SAY THAT THE MODERN FAMILY ALONG WITH THE CHURCH COULD HELP DISRUPT THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING TODAY WITHIN OUR SOCIETY, WHAT MIGHT BE YOUR IMMEDIATE THOUGHT?
- WOULD YOU BE QUICK TO AGREE, OR TO DISAGREE, WITH ME? OR MIGHT YOU ASK TO HEAR MORE, OR WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION?
- HOPEFULLY, YOU WOULD BE READY TO HEAR MORE, AND YOU ARE EAGER TO ADD TO THE CONVERSATION. WHY? BECAUSE YOU SEE THE DECLINE IN MORALS AND VALUES, AND A LOSS OF HOPE, RESPECT, & LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AND YOU'RE NOT OKAY WITH WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.
- SO, IF YOU & I ARE GOING TO SEE AMERICA UPHOLD CHRISTIAN MORALS, VALUES, OR PRINCIPLES THAT WE KNOW WILL HELP THIS GENERATION TO LIVE A PRODUCTIVE AND PROSPEROUS LIFE - DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN HELPING TO RESET THIS NATION ON THE PATH TO VICTORY? AND IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO SAVE THIS GREAT NATION?

**THE MAIN POINT:**

- YOU OR I CAN CONTINUE TO DO THE THINGS WE FIND INTERESTING AND HELPFUL, OR WE CAN ACCEPT THE TRUTH: THAT EACH ONE OF US NEEDS GOD TO AWAKEN, INSPIRE, EMPOWER, & LEAD US TO FULFILL HIS PLANS.

**Q: DOES IT REALLY MATTER – IF NOT TO YOU, IT WILL MATTER TO OUR YOUTH:**

- HOUSING, EDUCATION, CRIME, INCARCERATION, INCOME, RECIDIVISM
- HOMELESSNESS: NUMBER OF HOMELESS IN US ESTIMATED @ 552,830; HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE AN AVG LIFE EXPECTANCY OF 50 YEARS; OVER 70% OF HOMELESS PERSONS ARE YOUNG ADULTS BELOW AGE OF 50; 47% OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS LIVE IN CA; OVER 65% OF HOMELESS IN THE US ARE IN HOMELESS SHELTERS [POLICYADVICE.NET]
- CRIME TRENDS IN U.S. CITIES [2010-2020]: OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME +12%, MURDER & MANSLAUGHTER +26%, RAPE +38%, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT +29%, MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT +48% [SAFEHOME.ORG]

- OUTPACING THE RATES IN GROWTH OF MEN, THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN THE U.S. IS AT OVER 10X THE LEVEL IN 1970. THE MAJORITY OF THESE WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA, UNMET MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH NEEDS, AND ARE SINGLE MOTHERS WHO COME FROM LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. [TRENDS.VERA.ORG]
- 2021 CENSUS: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: FIRST SIGNIFICANT DECLINE SINCE 2011 [CENSUS.GOV]
- ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE: ALMOST 44% OF CRIMINALS RELEASED RETURN BEFORE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OUT OF PRISON [WORLDPOPULATIONREVIEWCOM]

**THE TEXT:** READ MATTHEW CH. 1

- **Q:** WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?
- **A:** A GODLY INTERVENTION. A DISRUPTION OF THE WAY WE (CHRISTIANS) ARE INTERACTING WITH THE PEOPLE AND ISSUES OF OUR DAY.

**Matthew 1:21** And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” – starts by saving the marriage of Mary & Joseph

Family is very important to Matthew: because the promises of God were made to specific ancestors; and the critical role of fathers were/are not to be overlooked.

In this record the Son of David is emphasized because Jews believed the Messiah would come from David's line [2 Sam.7:11-16].

God promised Abraham that he would be the source of blessing for all peoples, [Gen.12:3] and for Matthew, this promise ultimately is fulfilled in Jesus.

In Matthew Ch. 1, we see that Christ Jesus has been sent to the world to offer us salvation from sin. And though He may not be immediately welcomed by all, He does offer those who are ready to listen & obey Him with clarity, confidence, and courage to act, in ways that will honor God and help one another to remain pure.

**Clarity** – the child within her was conceived by the Holy spirit

**Confidence** – there's no need (Joseph) to be afraid of taking Mary as your wife

**Courage** – she will have a son, and you – are to name him Jesus

When we look closer, we find that although God the Father and the Holy Spirit worked together to send us this great gift, Jesus was not immediately recognized or accepted for the gift of life that He would ultimately be known to bring us all. In other words, we begin to see how Joseph was troubled by the news of Mary becoming pregnant before they were even married. And since Joseph knew that this situation would bring criticism, division, and judgment from those within their community, Joseph needed to end the relationship in a quick and tactful manner.

Joseph, righteous (faithful to the law) – would send her away privately/divorced.

Yet, God intervened by sending an angel to help Joseph make the right decision. And not only did the angel help Joseph to know what the right thing was to do, but he helped him to see his great part in the family of God. That of being a father to a son, who would go on to be known for doing even greater things in life.

- **1 JOHN 5:12** 'WHOEVER HAS THE SON HAS LIFE; WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE GOD'S SON DOES NOT HAVE LIFE.'
- **1 JOHN 5:20** 'AND WE KNOW THAT THE SON OF GOD HAS COME, AND HE HAS GIVEN US UNDERSTANDING SO THAT WE CAN KNOW THE TRUE GOD. AND NOW WE LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE TRUE GOD BECAUSE WE LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST. HE IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD, & HE IS ETERNAL LIFE.'

#### **THE CLOSING:**

**Q: HOW WILL YOU HELP TURN THIS NATIONS' HEARTS & MINDS BACK TO GOD?**

- EXAMINE YOUR OWN CONVICTIONS & COMMITMENTS TO ACHIEVE THEM.

#### **A NEXT STEP:**

- IDENTIFY THE DIFFERENT WAYS THIS WORLD HAS UPSET YOUR JOURNEY AND HOW GOD INTERVENED IN YOUR LIFE & SET YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH.
- BEGIN GIVING GOD THANKS FOR HIS HELP & COMMIT TO PAY-IT FORWARD
- TO FIND TRUE PEACE WE MUST ALL LISTEN, TRUST, & OBEY GOD'S VOICE.
- LISTEN TO THE CONVICTIONS OF YOUR HEART & COMMIT TO HELP OTHERS