



"Who Sends the Messenger?" (Encounters Series - Ep. II)

The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth stands over the cave that tradition holds to be the home of the Virgin Mary. Here, it is believed, the arch-angel Gabriel told that she would become the mother of the Son of God and Mary consented: "Let it be done to me according to your word."

Next to it is the Church of St. Joseph which tradition says is built over his carpentry workshop. Outside is a bronze Statue of Saint Joseph

Joseph was given a series of dreams. Trusted the _____ and followed through.

1st Dream

"But after he had considered this, an **angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream** and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" **Matthew 1:20-21** (NIV)

2nd Dream

"When they had gone, **an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream**. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'" **Matthew 2:13** (NIV)

3rd Dream

"After Herod died, **an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream** to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'" **Matthew 2:19-20** (NIV)

At this point, you'd expect that this is the way that God speaks to people. Send an angel in a dream. LORD I NEED to hear from you! Speak to me in a dream. This does happen, but the primary way is through the Bible, His _____ to everyone!

Get caught up in _____ is sending the message, and not the messenger.

We love to evaluate the messenger well before the message.

An angel has the challenge to speak the words of God without being revered.

Why not just send angels all the time? There is supposed to be nothing between you and God. No person, no messenger, no idol, no saint, Jesus alone bridges the gap!

"For there is one God and **one mediator between God and mankind**, the man _____,"... **1 Timothy 2:5** (NIV)

Be mindful of extra things that get in between you and God.

St. Paul's Monastery on Mount Athos claims to have relics of the Gifts of the Magi, while in Croatia, Dubrovnik's Cathedral claims to have the swaddling clothes of baby Jesus.

It's not about authenticity, it's about the transformational presence of Jesus that comes to dwell in your heart. The gift is Jesus and not the messenger

Romans Road

1. "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,..." **Romans 3:23** (NIV)

2. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 6:23** (NIV)

3. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **Romans 5:8** (NIV)

4. "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." **Romans 10:9** (NIV)

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