

## **Fearless Week 3: Dealing with Sudden Chaos in Life**

It is not hard to look around the world right now and see how everything is falling apart. Job loss, sickness, economic struggles, isolation, etc. are making it feel like the sky is falling, and it is time to go buy all the toilet paper then live in a cabin in the woods to get away from all the crazy! The thing is, we as Christians are not called to shrink back in times of struggle and chaos, we are instead called to step up and lead the way. Pastor Tom this Sunday is teaching on the stories of Joseph and Mary, and how both of these teenagers were thrown into chaos either by God or their own family. Pastor Tom pulls 4 truths from these stories that can show us why chaos happens and how God can redeem it.

These two stories can be found in Genesis 37 and Luke 1

### **1. We Will All Experience Chaos in our Lives**

Because of social media, the news, social distancing, and self-quarantining, we know that this virus has taken a major toll on everyone in the world. However, we also know that there are others who have been more effected than we have because they personally know someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, and then there are also those whose lives will never be the same because of the loss of a loved one. There are definitely some people who will be more effected than others, but it would be foolish to think that this doesn't bring chaos into everyone's life.

Joseph experienced Chaos by being sold into slavery by his brothers (you might think this would be the worst, but their other option was to kill him so somehow being sold into slavery was not the worst). His brothers were jealous of the love that their father, Jacob, showed to Joseph. So, they formed a plan to throw him into a pit and sell him to some slave traders passing through. When Joseph got to Egypt, he was sold to a man named Potiphar, where he worked extremely hard and got elevated to the top position in the house, only second to Potiphar himself. Then Joseph was falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison. His life was full of chaos, and even when it seemed to be getting better, chaos struck again.

Mary was a young girl who loved the Lord and tried her best to live according to his Word. And God rewarded her faithfulness by making her the mother of the Savior of the World! One thing though...she was an unmarried virgin, and she going to become pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Think about explaining that to your fiancé, your family, and everyone else. Can you imagine the judgement, the shame, the insults that she knew were coming her way? In this time, women could even be killed for being unfaithful to their fiancé or spouse. She knew she was about to step into one of the most chaotic, challenging, and even painful seasons she'd ever faced.

No matter who we are, we will all experience chaos. It might not be that you're sold into slavery or that you get pregnant by the Holy Spirit, but we will all face (and are facing) trying times. But that's not the end of the story.

## **2. God is Right with Us in Our Chaos**

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

**Joshua 1:9**

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

No matter what happened to Joseph, God was with him every step of the way. When he was in chains, God was there. When he was a slave in Potiphar's house, God was there. When he was forgotten in prison, God was there.

When Mary was scared to tell her fiancé what the angel told her, God was there. When others insulted or shamed her, God was there. When she felt rejected, God was there.

Have you ever wondered if God was there with you when chaos was hurled into your life? Could God really be there in the midst of that pain? We can be confident that God is with us in the midst of the chaos because *He says He will be*. God's Word is true, and he will never go back on his promises to us. In fact, he promises to even go ahead of us—to face the chaos first, to forge our path, and to walk us through it. We never have to wonder if God is there, we just have to follow him.

## **3. God is Sovereign and He is in Total Control**

The world may have been blindsided by COVID-19, but God was never surprised. You may be wondering what's coming next, wondering if your family member is going to get sick, wondering when all this will finally end. We may not have all (or any) answers to these difficult questions, but God does!

The Bible says that God is SOVEREIGN—which is a big, fancy word that means that God possesses supreme and ultimate power. He has total control, and total knowledge of, the world we live in. He is in control of COVID-19!

How can this give us hope? Well Romans 8:28 says “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose”. We may feel powerless against Coronavirus, but God is not powerless. God can take all this chaos, pain, turmoil, and confusion we feel, and He alone can bring beauty and good from it. We don't need to lose hope in the midst of chaos. Instead, we can have confidence that God will bring good to his people and this world.

#### **4. We Can Trust God to Work It Out**

We saw how Mary and Joseph faced extremely chaotic and painful situations, but their situations are not unusual for biblical characters. In fact, chaos struck almost every person we read about in the Bible. Heroes of the faith like Moses, Abraham, Noah, King David, and Paul all faced extremely difficult situations. It might sound discouraging to know that no one is exempt from chaos, but actually we can rejoice because every one of those heroes made it through the chaos to the other side! How did this happen? God worked it out for them!

Does COVID-19 seem unbeatable? Does it seem like this trial will never end, or will hurt us beyond what we can bear? I bet David felt like that when he faced the giant. I bet Moses felt like that when he was trapped between a sea and thousands of Egyptians coming to kill him. I bet Noah felt like that as everything he has ever known was wiped from the face of the earth, and all he could see was a never-ending sea.

But their stories didn't end in the chaos. Our won't either! God worked IN and THROUGH their chaos, and he will do the same today!

## **Discussion Questions**

1. In your opinion, what is the most chaotic thing about this crisis?
2. How can Christians step up in the midst of the chaos?
3. How can this effect the perception of people and their openness toward the gospel?
4. Why does God allow bad things to happen?
5. Other than Coronavirus, what are other times you have experienced chaos?
6. How did you see God work in that situation?
7. How did Mary and Joseph handle their chaos? What should we do that they did? What should we not do?
8. Does it concern you or comfort you that almost all characters in the bible went through chaos?
9. What is one way this week that you will let God work in your chaos?
10. What is one way this week that you will let God use you to work in someone's chaos?