

## **Mirror, Mirror... Christmas Series Part 4: "Ch-ch-changes!"**

*By Cere Muscarella*

"Humbly accept the implanted word which is able to *save your souls*. Be a doer of the word and not a listener only, deceiving yourself. If anyone is a hearer only, he is like a man who looks at himself in a mirror, walks away and quickly forgets what he looked like. *But if anyone sees himself in the word of God and is a hearer and a doer of it, he is like a man who never forgets who he is! This one will be blessed in his doings!*" **James 1.21-25**

**We see ourselves in the word, do what it says to fit ourselves into it, so that we will be blessed in what we do!**

**Mirror, mirror...** 1<sup>st</sup> week of Christmas: "GIRL-POWER!" A highly favored/specially honored teen partners w/God to *change the world!* 2nd week of Christmas: "AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING BABY!" "Cuz Baby it's cold outside!" 3rd week of Christmas: "THE WISE GUYS!" Who did the adjusting to let God be God!

**So...What are your plans for this Christmas?**

**Jesus had other plans...** "When the fullness of time had come, God sent His son, made of a woman, made under the law..." **Galatians 4.4**

No more 'thousand years to one of their days, Dad!' No more Father, Son and Spirit! **Never lived under the law before!** "*NEVERTHELESS, not My will but Yours be done!*"

"God made Him who knew no sin to be made sin for us that we could be made right with God!" **2Corinthians 5.21** "He was wounded for our sins, bruised for our iniquities... God made the iniquity of us all to meet on Him." **Isaiah 53.5** *God's will that all men would be saved!* "Endured the cross, despising the shame, for the joy set before Him!" **Hebrews 12.2**

**Mary had other plans...** "You will conceive and bring forth a son and will call His name Jesus... 'How will this be seeing I have never been with a man?'" **Luke 1.31-34**  
Baby's-daddy picked and approaching!

Planning on kids, but not this way! BTW, I already had names picked out! BUT, "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me as you have said!*" **Luke 1.38**

Shower and wedding planned... Be surrounded by family/friends... Going to have a nice little house... Kids go to same schools/playground... BUT, "*My soul magnifies the Lord...*" **Lk1.46**

**Joseph had other plans...** "Mary was engaged to Joseph but before they came together she was found with child. Then Joseph, being a just man and not willing to shame her, was minded to break up with her quietly. But while he thought on these things, he fell asleep and the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, '*Son of David*, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife for what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit!"

**Ch-ch-ch-changes!** Jesus had His "spiritual" plans changed following God... Mary had her "soulish" plans turned over saying yes to God... Joseph had his "physical" plans twisted up by God's plans... **AND EACH ONE OF THEM TURNED OUT FINE YIELDING THEIR PLANS FOR HIS!**

It started out rocky for Jesus, but He became the Savior of the world! It looked like marriage on the rocks for Mary, but she was the partner of God! Joseph, *generational heir of the Messiah*, watched as the very course of nature was interrupted to fulfill the promise!

**The times we are most resistant to the plans of God are the times we are most afraid!**

**Some of the biggest struggles we face in life come from holding on to our own plans!**

**Can we 'shift' when...**

- God says, "It's time to go from nominal to intimate worship?"
- To move from 'my will' to 'Thy will?'
- Who's 'image' will you bear?
- Our 'rights' are at stake but His nature is the prize?
- Joseph had rights to exercise, but God was looking for more than a 'self-established' man!

**Can we 'shift' when...**

The 'American Dream,' crib to grave, is not His way for us? Which culture will we reflect? What culture do we project?

When our kids don't go the direction we planned for and wanted for them? Mary's parents/family/friends all engaged in this plan of God!

And what about God's plan for Jesus?

**The world we live in and the plans God has for us can be very different than ours!**

**Can we see ourselves as change-able?**