

Dare.To.Pray.
Jesus, Be With Me
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¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. **Matthew 1:18–25 NLT**

(9 months later!)

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."...

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. **Luke 2:8-20 NLT**

I dare you to pray...Jesus, be WITH me.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 NIV

Thread: Christmas is the fresh air of CLARITY - God "with" us.

Into the chaos and confusion:

1. God is not running from important life conversations; He is initiating them.

2. There is no contradiction or confusion with the ONE, Jesus, only the choice for alignment.
 - What does God ask of me?
 - How do I understand myself in relationship to God?
 - What is my purpose in all this? Is there a purpose FOR me?
3. In Jesus we find our answers. In Jesus we find certainties.

To Meet the Need:

1. Jesus came to diagnose the need/illness, give us clarity and understanding and offer us HOPE.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. **Romans 3:23-25 NLT**

²¹ And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do... ²² But now you are free from the power of sin. **Romans 6:21-22 NLT**

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."³² I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent." **Luke 5:31-32 NLT**

For You:

1. Just like Levi, He calls you by name: " _____ (Your name here!) _____, follow Me."

I dare you to pray...Jesus, be WITH me.

Challenge:

- Open your heart to Jesus so that He may change your eternity.
- Open your heart to Jesus so YOU can begin walking with Him each day.
- Time to sit with the story of Christmas. See it not from a child's eyes, but from one who is desperate for the Savior to meet your need and clear up your confusion and chaos.

Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study:

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www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/salvation

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www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/gods-love

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