WHILE HE THOUGHT ON THESE THINGS

Matthew 1:20 KJV

[20] But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Thank God for the grace to take a little time to think on some things and not just be one that does the first thing that pops in his mind. The first thing that popped in Joseph’s mind was to have Mary put away privily which was at least thoughtful. He could have been one who would never have anything to do with her again. Another option would have been to make a public spectacle of her. For Joseph, it was a blessing to take time and think on these things, for in that time God sent an angel with calmness and purpose. “Fear not” is God’s words to calm our fears and anxieties. Purpose came when God assured him that her conception was of the Holy Ghost and that everything that was happening was in God’s plan.

Often, we are such reactionaries, that faced with a situation, we want to immediately go into the battle mode. We never slow down for prayer or Godly contemplation. I wonder how many blessings have been lost because we didn’t take time to allow God his way. The children of Israel were instructed to stand still so that they might see God’s hand at work. Christ’s disciples were told to tarry in Jerusalem and wait on the Holy Ghost. We need that time to know that God is there for us and that he cares for us. By waiting, by taking some time, we are able to see God do amazing things.

Is all this to say that God cannot work at a moment’s notice? No. He can work in this way; he has worked in this way; and often does work immediately but he wants us to take time to use good judgment that he provides. He wants us to talk to Him, listen for Him, and listen to Him. He may want us to look for answers in his word. We may need time for just plain ole spiritual reasoning, using the Holy Spirit that abides in us to help search for God’s intent in our life when facing something that may be life altering.

Just think about it. The greatest news Joseph ever received came to him while he was thinking on these things! If the situation allows, it will do us good to take some time to pray and think about it, using all the spiritual faculties that God provides.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram