

Mary & her father

Ryan: Well, when we left Mary and Joseph a little while ago, everything seemed to be very rosy indeed. But I'm picking up a vibe that something has happened which has turned Mary's happy home upside down. I think this next conversation between Mary and her dad might clear things up a bit. So let's have a listen.

Mary: Dad? Did you hear me?

Father: Yes.

Mary: Well?

Father: I don't know. To be honest, I'm confused... If you were telling me that you're pregnant, and Joseph is the father, I would understand. Can't say I'd be happy, but I would understand. I'd be ashamed too, of course, and no doubt the rest of the village would have something to say about it. But I would, at least, understand why it happened...and I would blame myself for not keeping a closer eye on the two of you.

But that doesn't seem to be what you're telling me, is it?

Mary: Not quite...no.

Father: And you don't know for sure if you're pregnant. All that's happened is some boy, that you've never met before, has appeared to you and told you that you're going to have a baby. A baby that is NOT Joseph's.

How do you know that he's telling you the truth?

Mary: Well, I don't know for certain. But cousin Elizabeth is pregnant after some mysterious "boy" came out of nowhere and told Zechariah that they would have a baby.

Father: Yes, but it's Zechariah's baby. It may be a bit late in the day for them to be having babies, but it's not against God's law. Besides, you're not supposed to know about...what they believe was an angel. Elizabeth didn't want it mentioned in case people thought Zechariah was going soft in the head.

Mary: Mum told me.

She said that there must be something special about this baby boy for an angel to announce his arrival. And then an angel – probably the same one - came to me and said something similar. He said that I was blessed to be the one chosen by God to carry this baby. That he would be a great king. That this is God's work. It would happen because he, God, would make it happen. Don't our scriptures say that God spoke and the universe came into being? Well, maybe he did something similar with me. Maybe God spoke and a baby was created inside me. The angel didn't do anything, he was just the messenger.

(pause)

Father: I don't know what to think. But I do know that throughout your whole life I've never had a reason to doubt your honesty or integrity. You have always been a good girl, and your love for the Lord your God is clear for all to see. Well, your mother and I have always taught you to trust in God, so, I guess, we will have to trust in him now.

But what are you going to tell Joseph? He will be very upset with you. Chances are he won't believe this angel story. Your marriage will be over before it's started!

Mary: I know. I don't even want to think about telling him... I've been in love with him all my life and I was so excited about marrying him. Then an angel turns up and throws my whole life upside down.

Why couldn't the angel have appeared to both of us at the same time?

Father: I don't know, love. But I think, at the moment, our best plan for now would be to tell no one about this, including your mum and Joseph.

Mary, tell absolutely no one!

We don't yet know for certain that you really are pregnant. We'll deal with that when we know. But if it turns out you're NOT pregnant then nobody needs to know about this. Yeh?

Mary: Yes. Thanks dad.