# Mary & Joseph (2)

Ryan: So, according to Elizabeth, things seem to have been sorted out between Joseph and Mary, but what really happened? Well, we're going back to that interview I had with them at the Summer conference.

Compère: Perhaps, Joseph, you could tell us how you felt when your mother broke the news about Mary being pregnant?

Joseph: Yes, sure. The conversation I had with my mum was the hardest I have ever had. I felt betrayed by Mary, and I was angry with my mum because she seemed to be taking Mary's side. I think I was even angry with God for allowing all this to happen. But I was also REALLY confused. This wasn't the Mary I had known all my life. So what was going on?

My mum gave me two bits of advice. One: think long and carefully before making a decision about Mary, and two: choose carefully who I talked to about this. She knew that I would need to talk with someone, if just for my own sanity. But some people were better to talk to than others. Of course, I couldn't talk to Mary. She had gone to stay with her cousin Elizabeth. Which was probably just as well because, at first, I only wanted to yell at her for what she had done to me. But as my anger subsided, I found I wanted her to be there because I missed her.

Then I had a dream. Normally my dreams are chaotic imaginings which have no rhyme of reason to them. But this dream was the complete opposite to that. This dream was unusually real and very clear. A young man appeared and told me Mary's baby really WAS from God. He told me that Mary HAD remained faithful to me. He told me this baby was special, and God was entrusting us with the job of bringing him up as if he were our own.

I woke up really early in the morning and I felt so excited I just had to wake up the donkey, feed him some breakfast, and then we were off on our journey to see Mary.

Compère: So, Mary, how did you feel when you heard Joseph had arrived at Elizabeth and Zechariah's house?

Mary: When Joseph showed up, I was petrified about what he would say or do to me. In our society he had the power to ruin me. But I also knew that Joseph was not a cruel or proud man. Elizabeth had told me to trust in our

powerful God of love, and he would protect me and the baby. So that was what I did.

Joseph and I went for a walk, and instead of getting angry with me, Joseph asked me how I was, how the baby was, and how was my stay at cousin Elizabeth's? Not at all what I was expecting. I told him I was expecting him to be angry with me, and he admitted he had been. But then he said to me his feelings were as much confusion as anger. He couldn't really believe that I had cheated on him. Then he told me about his own encounter with an angel in his dream, and that when he woke up, things made a lot more sense. I laughed and said, "Has everyone met this angel now?"

(pause)

Then he said the most wonderful thing… He said that, even though it was me that was carrying the baby, God had now given both of us the job of bringing up this child of his, and that was what Joseph now wanted to do.

I was so happy, I couldn't stop crying, which got a bit embarrassing after a while actually! Even now, when I think or speak about it, I start to choke up. I had my Joseph back…and he had me.

Compère: Well, that's brilliant! So what happened next?

Joseph: Well we returned to Nazareth, and we went straight to the priest. We told him we wanted to get married as soon as possible. He agreed to marry us the very next day. We told my mum and Mary's parents and they all went crazy trying to organise everything in time. Meanwhile, Mary and I went around the whole village together, with Mary very obviously pregnant, inviting everyone to come to the wedding. We got a few funny looks from people, but we didn't want anyone left out.

Mary: And our wedding day was wonderful! I felt sick for most of it and could hardly eat, and I definitely couldn't dance! And at the end of the party, lots of the villagers walked with me and my parents as we collected my stuff from their house and carried it to the house Joseph had built for the two of us. So, that's how we began our new life together!