

Title: “Mary’s Yes: The Wonder of Surrender”

READER 1:

She was a young girl.
Ordinary. Unknown.
Living in a dusty town with a quiet future laid out before her.
Betrothed to Joseph.
Preparing for marriage.
Planning a simple life.

And then—
An angel appeared.

READER 2:

“Greetings, favored one,” he said. “The Lord is with you.”

Mary was troubled by his words.
Because she knew who she was.
She wasn’t royal.
She wasn’t rich.
She wasn’t anyone the world would call important.

But God did.

READER 1:

The angel spoke again:
“Do not be afraid, Mary.
You have found favor with God.
You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”

And then came the unthinkable:
“He will be great...
and will be called the Son of the Most High.”
The Messiah.
The promised One.
The One that would come from David’s line and sits on the throne.
God’s own Son... in *her* womb?

READER 2:

She had questions.
Of course she did.
“How can this be?” she asked.

And the angel answered,
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you.
The power of the Most High will overshadow you.

The child born will be holy—
the Son of God.”

READER 1:

In that moment, Mary could have said no.
She could have walked away,
held onto the safety of what she knew—
the plans she had made.

But instead...
she surrendered.

Not with full understanding,
but with full trust.

READER 2:

“I am the servant of the Lord,” she said.
“Let it be to me according to your word.”

And with that simple yes,
the story of salvation moved forward.
Heaven came to earth—through her surrender.

READER 1:

She would carry the Christ.
She would be misunderstood,
gossiped about,
risk losing Joseph, her family, her reputation.
She would one day watch her Son suffer and die.

And still—she said yes.

READER 2:

This is the wonder of Mary.
Not just that she was chosen,
but that she *trusted* the One who chose her.

In a world that values control,
Mary teaches us the beauty of letting go.

In a culture obsessed with power,
Mary shows us the strength of submission.

In a season filled with noise,
Mary invites us into quiet trust.

READER 1:

Her surrender made room for the Savior.
And our surrender does the same.

So this Advent,
may we stand in awe of Mary's courage—
not because she understood everything,
but because she believed God was good.

(Light the Advent candle)

READER 2:

May we, like Mary,
make room in our hearts for the unexpected.
May we, like Mary,
welcome Christ with wonder.
May we, like Mary,
say: *Let it be to me according to Your word.*

Title: “Joseph: The Wonder of Faithful Obedience”

READER 1:

He is often in the background.
No grand speeches.
No songs or prophecies.
Just a man.
Quiet. Steady. Faithful.

Joseph.

A carpenter.
A man of skill and humility.
Engaged to a young woman named Mary—
looking forward to a simple life.

But then...
everything changed.

READER 2:

She was found to be with child.

Not *his* child.

Imagine the ache.
The disappointment.
The sense of betrayal.

Joseph could have reacted in anger.
He could have exposed her, disgraced her,
walked away and protected his name.

But instead, he chose compassion.
He planned to divorce her quietly.
He chose mercy over pride.
Even in confusion, his character spoke.

READER 1:

And then—
God spoke.

In a dream, an angel appeared and said:

*"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid
to take Mary as your wife,
for what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

*She will give birth to a son,
and you are to name him Jesus,
because He will save His people from their sins.”*

READER 2:

Joseph could have doubted.
He could have dismissed the dream.
He could have demanded signs.

But he didn't.

He believed. And he obeyed.

He took Mary as his wife.
He protected her.
He protected the Child.
And when the time came,
he named Him—*Jesus*.

READER 1:

Joseph became the earthly father of the Son of God.
He taught Jesus to walk.
To work with wood.
He stood watch over the Savior of the world—
not with fanfare, but with faith.

His obedience helped fulfill ancient prophecy.
His quiet trust helped raise the Savior of the world.

READER 2:

This is the wonder of Joseph:
That a simple man with no spotlight,
no title,
no recorded words—
was used by God in history's greatest story.

Because he trusted.
Because he had *faith*.
Because he obeyed.

READER 1:

In a world that demands certainty,
Joseph shows us the wonder of trusting God in the unknown.

In a culture that craves recognition,
Joseph teaches us that faith doesn't always need applause.

In a season full of noise,
Joseph reminds us that God often speaks when we least expect it, in silence and
in the stillness of a faithful heart.

(Light the Advent candle)

READER 2:

This Advent, may we remember the strength of quiet faith.
May we find peace in choosing obedience over understanding.
And may we, like Joseph, say with our lives:
“Not my will, but Yours be done.”

Title: “The Shepherds: The Wonder of Joy”

READER 1:

They were not the ones you'd expect.
Not priests. Not scholars. Not kings.
Just shepherds.

They lived on the edges—
literally and socially.
Known for long nights,
dirty hands,
and keeping watch over animals no one else wanted to deal with.
Unclean by temple standards.
Unnoticed by the powerful, except for the times the people needed a lamb to sacrifice.

And yet—
they were the first to hear.

READER 2:

On that ordinary night,
beneath a blanket of stars,
while the world slept...

Heaven erupted.

An angel appeared—
not in a temple, not in a throne room,
but in a field.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said.
“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

All the people.
Not just the righteous.
Not just the religious.
Not just the clean, the worthy, or the important.

READER 1:

Then came the message that would change the world:
*“Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.
You will find Him wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.”*

And then—suddenly—
the sky burst open.
A multitude of angels filled the heavens, praising God:

*“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”*

READER 2:

The shepherds didn't hesitate.
They didn't wait for confirmation.
They didn't clean up first or ask if they were allowed.

They ran.
They ran with joy.

They found Him—just as the angel said.
A baby. Wrapped in cloth. Lying in a manger.
The King of all kings—so small, so near.

READER 1:

And in that lowly stable,
the shepherds found more than a child.
They found humility.
They found joy.
They found **themselves included** in the greatest story ever told.

Because God had come—
not just for the powerful,
but for the poor.

Not just for the insiders,
but for the outcasts.

Not just for the clean,
but for the messy, the forgotten, the ordinary.

READER 2:

This is the wonder of the shepherds.
Not that they were chosen despite who they were—
but because of it.

Their story reminds us:
The good news is for all.
The joy of Christ is for everyone.
There is room for you at the manger.

(Light the Advent candle)

READER 1:

This Advent, may we carry the same joy.
May we run to Jesus with wonder in our eyes.
And may we, like the shepherds,
go and tell the world:

*“Glory to God in the highest!
The Savior has come—
and He came for all of us.”*

Title: “The Wise Men: The Wonder of Peace”

READER 1:

They came from the East.
Scholars.
Seekers.
Wise men who watched the skies,
reading the stars like pages in a book.

They had wealth, knowledge, position—
but not peace.

Because something was missing.
Something their studies, their scrolls, their palaces couldn't give them.

And then—
a star appeared.

A light unlike any they had seen.
It spoke not with words,
but with presence.
With purpose.

A king had been born.
A ruler.
A Savior.

READER 2:

They didn't know the whole story,
but they knew enough to begin the quest.

So they left.

They followed the light through deserts and danger,
through kingdoms and questions,
through silence and uncertainty.

It was not an easy journey.
Peace doesn't always come quickly.
But the star kept leading.

READER 1:

When they arrived in Jerusalem,
they asked, “*Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?*”
Herod, the reigning king, was troubled.
Power always trembles when the true King arrives.

But the Scriptures pointed to Bethlehem.
And so the journey continued—
until the star lead them to the most unlikely place to find a king.

And inside...

They found Him.

READER 2:

Not in a palace.
Not seated on a throne.

But in the arms of a young mother.
A child—

And when they saw Him,
they fell to the ground in worship.

They opened their treasures—
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

But the greatest gift they gave...
was their **surrender**.

READER 1:

And in that moment,
they received something far greater than they brought:

Peace.

Not peace like the world gives—
temporary, fragile, fleeting.

But peace that fills the soul.
Peace that silences fear.
Peace that says, *"You've found what you were made for."*

READER 2:

They left by another road.
But they left as changed men.

Because when you encounter Jesus,
you never leave the same.

(Light the Advent candle)

READER 1:

This is the wonder of the Wise Men:
That peace is not found in knowledge, power, or wealth—
but in the presence of Christ.

This Advent,
may we follow the Light through whatever darkness we face.
May we lay down our striving and kneel in worship.
And may we, like the Wise Men,
find the wonder of peace—
in Jesus.

Title: “Love Made Flesh: The Wonder of Jesus”

READER 1:

Love has always been part of the story.

From the very beginning—
when God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden,
when He called Abraham, rescued Israel, spoke through the prophets—
it was love that moved His heart.

But on one holy night,
that love stepped into the world in a way the world had never seen before.

Love...
became flesh.

READER 2:

The Word became human
and made His dwelling among us.
Not from a distance,
not through angels or fire or clouds—

But in person.
In flesh.
In vulnerability.

God... with us.

READER 1:

He came not to rule from a throne,
but to be laid in a manger.
He came not to crush us with power,
but to win us with love.

The God who could not be contained
chose the womb of a young girl.
The One who holds the universe together
was held in a mother’s arms.

READER 2:

And why?

Because love came looking for us.
Not to condemn,
but to save.

Not to shame,
but to restore.

Jesus came to enter our brokenness,
to carry our burdens,
to feel our pain,
to redeem every corner of the world His hands had made.

READER 1:

He didn't come for the righteous.
He came for the weary, the wandering, the wounded.
For the forgotten, the lost, the longing.

For **me**.

For **you**.

For **us**.

This is the miracle of Christmas—
not just that a baby was born,
but that **Love Himself** chose to come.

READER 2:

The Incarnation is not just a moment in history.
It's the heartbeat of eternity.
God didn't just say He loved the world—
He stepped into it.

And in that manger,
on that night,
in that small town of Bethlehem...
the fullness of God's love was wrapped in cloth
and laid in the straw.

(Light the Advent candle)

READER 1:

This Advent, we pause in wonder.
At the God who drew near.
At the King who came low.
At the Savior who came not just to love...
but to **be** love.

Let us receive Him with awe.
Let us worship Him with joy.
Let us love others as He has loved us.

For unto us a Child is born.
Unto us a Son is given.
And His name shall be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Emmanuel.
God with us.