

A CHRISTMAS STAR

MANY PLAYERS IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY

- The cast of characters
 1. The stars - Jesus and Mary
 2. The other roles - shepherds, angels, wise men, Herod
 3. Best character in a supporting role - Joseph
- The man God chose
 1. A high-value man in God's sight
 2. A man who would be considered worthy to raise Jesus
 3. A man God could trust

WHAT GOD SAW IN JOSEPH (Matthew 1:18-25 NASB)

- A godly example - a righteous, upright man
 1. His response to Mary's apparent betrayal
 2. Even though he was hurt, he did not want to hurt Mary
- A heart to believe God
 1. He did not push back on the angel's message
 2. The word from the angel was all he needed to go on
- A willingness to take on a bigger purpose
 1. A purpose bigger than him - raising a Savior for the people
 2. A purpose that superseded his plans
 3. He called the baby what God called Him

LEARNING FROM JOSEPH - (WALKING WORTHY)

- The strength to be a good example
 1. Treating people with grace and kindness
 2. It takes strength to not fire back
 3. Paul's prayer for the church was to be strengthened
- A heart inclined to believe God
 1. We believe God's Word is God speaking to us today
 2. When we are willing to believe we don't live dominated by what we see and feel
 3. Believing God's Word and what He speaks to our hearts by the Holy Spirit
- The willingness to become a part of a bigger purpose
 1. A purpose bigger than just what touches our life
 2. As believers in Christ, we have a higher purpose (*Philippians 2:14-15 NLT*)