



December 1, 2019

Matthew 1:18-24

“Expect God”

To be

Beyond

our expectations!



**The
Story
Begins.**

¹⁹ Joseph, Mary's husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly.

The Story begins with logic, a righteous judgement, fear of what others will think or do.

The Story begins with a man knowing what God wants.

The Story begins by doing what we think is right, best, and most Godly.

**But
God**

Doesn't think like us.

...isn't created in our image.



“Joseph son of David, *don't be afraid* to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

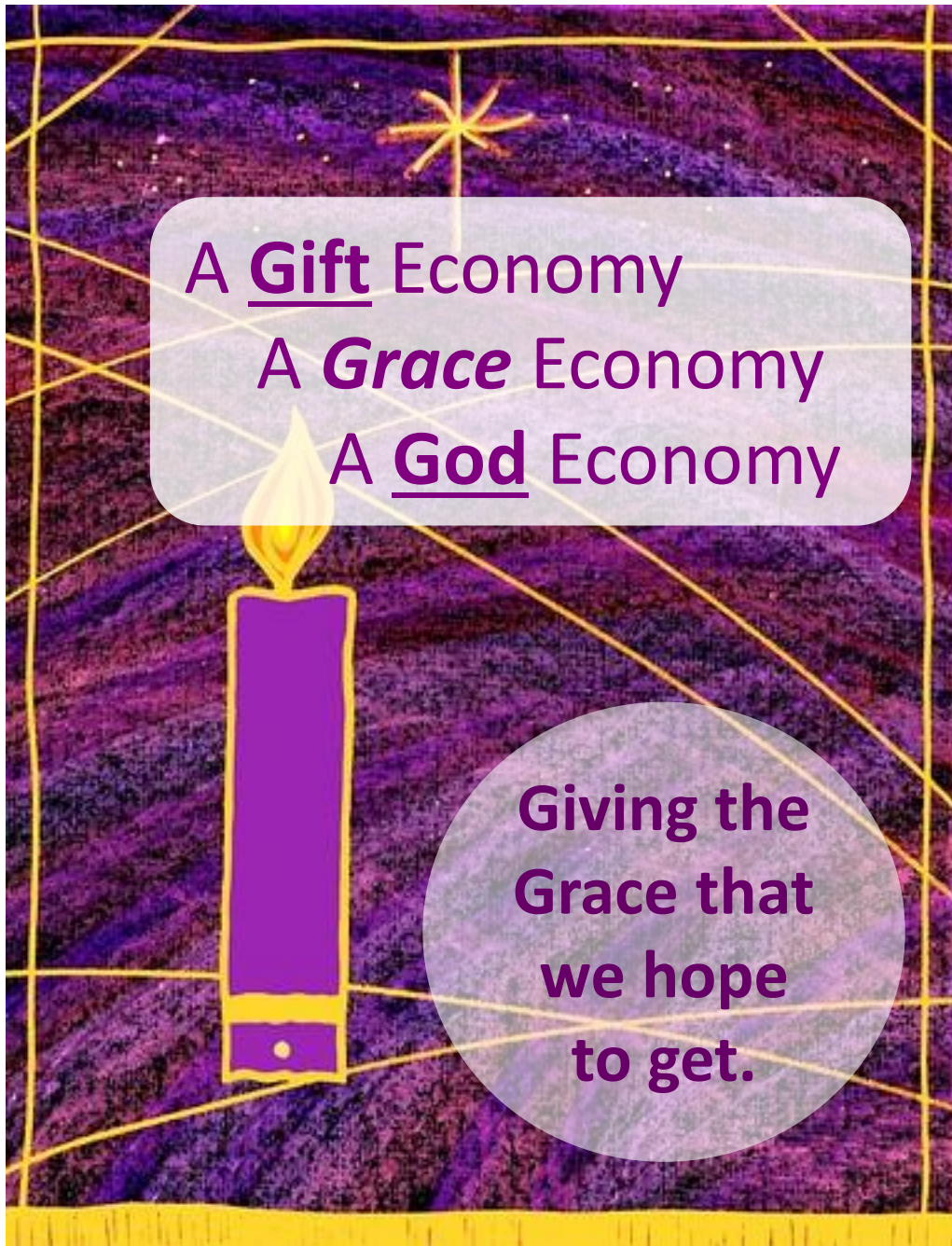
²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Everything about this story is wrong in human terms.

Not married, Husband betrayed, Wife sins a deadly sin, reputation destroyed, object of gossip, etc.

**But
God**

Operates with Grace as a baseline.
and sees what we choose to miss.



A **Gift** Economy
A ***Grace*** Economy
A **God** Economy

Giving the
Grace that
we hope
to get.

To understand the Gospel in its purity
and transformative power...

We must stop counting, measuring,
and weighing.

We must stop judging, criticizing,
and posturing.

We must stop saying “I deserve”
and deciding who does not deserve.

If we truly believe that we are all “just
sinners” then we must believe that it’s all
a gift, all undeserved Grace.

All of this came about so that the Prophecy would be fulfilled....

and **God would become as one of us.**

The Emmanuel— God with or in us!



The message of Joseph reveals that God does not operate by the standards or righteousness of humans.

We must see with God's eyes to understand.

Live Humble Repentant Lives


(own the sins of the past & present)

Live Changed Lives

(make amends daily for our attitudes and choices)

Live Accepting Lives

(Draw others in because we will be judged as we judge)

A group of people, including a man with long hair and a beard, smiling and looking towards the camera. The man in the center has long, wavy brown hair and a full dark beard, wearing a light-colored, textured robe. He is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. To his right, another man with a long dark beard and a grey head covering looks towards the camera with a slight smile. In the foreground, two women wearing head coverings are also smiling. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees.

*And they will call
him, Emmanuel.
("God with us.")*

God as one of us!

God Showing
us how to live!

The Prayer of all time!

“Come Emmanuel”

“Messiah, Come to us”

“Come, Lord Jesus”

“Come Again, Lord Jesus”

Straighten out those Romans.

Fix our world.

Make things right.

Show them who you are.



O'
COME
Emmanuel

Isaiah 9:6

What
If...

It's us who needs to change?

It's our attitude & behavior that needs Grace?

It's us who may not be reflecting the
personality of God in Christ.

May we become the Christ to all others!



May others become the Christ to all of us!