

The bible is full of characters that God has chosen to carry out his work. I've written a lot of stories featuring these characters and will likely continue to do so. These stories, in my mind, are absolute truth of how God has a great sense of humor.

Often times it's not necessarily the message - many of the teachings from Jesus were pretty much 'common sense', after all - but the person who delivered it that made it so impactful.

A good example is Paul. It's like God was telling the religious leaders of the time, "So you guys aren't going to believe my son because he has a bunch of fishermen and tax collectors following him who 'get it'? If I get one of your rising stars to understand what my son is all about, will you listen then?"

It all makes sense, of course. While the world was looking for a Messiah who was rich, powerful and charismatic, God sent the world John the Baptist to announce the coming Messiah, then gave us Jesus who took a bunch of fishermen and tax collectors and taught them the message of Gods LOVE, then sent them out to teach the entire world that God wants to connect with everyone through his compassionate love for all who will accept it.

When the religious elite didn't buy into the message, God knocked one of their own off his horse, took his vision away, had a chat with him until he understood the message, then gave him back his site and sent him out to preach Gods message - 'Okay Paul, the message is LOVE and the message is for EVERYONE who accepts it. Go get 'em'

Yes I truly believe that God has a wonderful sense of humor. But I also believe that although the people God chose to deliver his message were colorful and at times quite entertaining, we would be wrong to be humored by these stories without understanding that the message they brought was dead serious - God wants to connect with EVERYONE and that connection is through LOVE!

Which brings me to my topic for today sorta.

Of all the cast of characters that God chose to carry out his work, there are two people who did not fit the profile of all the others. They were not loud, but on the quiet side. Their life was not extraordinary, but more normal for the times they lived in. Nice people, but not the kind

of people you'd expect great things from.

Of course, I'm talking about Joseph and Mary. How fitting is it that God chose such colorful characters to deliver the message, but chose the quiet, faithful, unassuming servants Joseph and Mary to deliver the Messiah.

Yes God does have a sense of humor and is not afraid to choose interesting characters to deliver his message of love to the world. But he really needed Joseph and Mary, two quiet and faithful servants to deliver the Messiah to the world.

God understood that he would have to check every box of prophecies about the coming messiah to have any validity and he knew that in order to fulfill the prophecies, he would need two people with the inner strength and faith to make it happen.

Mary understood the rules. She did not come from a family of great stature and would likely face being stoned to death for being pregnant out of wedlock. For a simple, young teenage woman, that was a pretty big assignment to take on.

Joseph was a hard working Jewish man who understood the laws. He was the only one who knew Mary had not been with another man and he knew the consequences if he accused her.

We would be wrong to underscore the anxiety, pressure and conflict that these two were facing. Their life went from a simple, quiet existence to a world of extreme anxiety and uncertainty. We can never imagine what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph during those nine months of trusting God to see them through their world so turned upside down.

Sure, God brought us many wonderful characters that clearly shows us that his love is truly unconditional.

But in order to bring the world their Messiah while checking off all the prophecies regarding the coming Messiah, God needed to choose carefully.

He got it right with Joseph and Mary.

Joseph and Mary represent a lot more than just a cute Christmas story. Their journey needed to be carried out flawlessly for the world to transition from a mechanical existence to an emotional world where LOVE wins the day.

No pressure Mary and Joe no pressure at all.