

# Weekly Devotions

## December 10-15 , 2018

Monday, December 10 —

Quote for the day:

*“Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied upon to do great things.”*

—Joseph Escriva

Read: Matthew 1.18-21

**Ponder:** Joseph did not sign up to be more than an ordinary husband, married to a woman who would bear children for them. He would continue to be a carpenter and raise his family in Bethlehem. And yet in the ordinary things of life, God often calls us to do something extraordinary in our ordinary lives.

**Challenge:** Each of us was born to be different than anyone else in the world. Even twins who come from the same egg and have the same physical features are very different. How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself as just ordinary...or do you see yourself as someone who has the potential to do extraordinary things? How do you think God sees you?

Tuesday, December 11-

Quote for the day:

*“St. Joseph...foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”*

Read: Matthew 1.24-25

**Ponder:** Biblically, God speaks to many who are called to do something extraordinary in dreams or visions. How does that translate into our world today? We all dream...but if you are like your pastor, I never remember my dreams. I might remember bits and pieces but often they fade into the early morning fog of my brain. Joseph does remember the dream and makes a difficult decision to take Mary as his wife even though he does not fully comprehend what that means.

**Challenge:** Mary and Joseph have both experienced God through visitation and dreams. Both are given an opportunity to accept or reject what God has laid before them. What have you accepted or rejected as God’s call on your life?

Wednesday, December 12-

Quote for the day:

*“Novels, like human beings, usually have their beginnings in the dark.”*

—Rita Mae Brown

Read: John 1.1-14

**Ponder:** The most powerful reading for the season of Advent and winter in general. Light overcoming darkness.

**Challenge:** During this season of darkness both in the season sense as well as the current context of our world, we must ask ourselves...will light truly overcome???

Thursday, December 13—

Quote for the day:

*“Discreet. Humble. Silent. But with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand.”*

Read: Matthew 1.19

**Ponder:** Joseph did not find Mary’s pregnancy to be something with which he could accept. But Joseph is a man of integrity and had decided to just cancel the marriage contract and not bring embarrassment upon Mary. That is true love in action.

**Challenge:** What are you willing to accept as a possibility instead of a disaster? Where has the road of chaos brought you to a place of hope and grace? What if you had not been willing to take the road less traveled?

Friday, December 14—

Quote for the day:

*“Never underestimate the power of dreams... the potential for greatness lies within each of us.”*

Read: Genesis 27.1-10

**Ponder:** Joseph of Bethlehem shared more than a name with Joseph the son of Jacob. Both had dreams where God was able to call them into a world that caused suffering to them. Joseph of Bethlehem was called into raising a child that was not his own; Joseph son of Jacob was sold as a slave. But one would raise the child of salvation of all and the other would save his people from starvation, as well as all of Egypt.

**Challenge:** Salvation is a word associated with our spiritual well-being and relationship with God but can merely mean to bring healing. Both Josephs played a part in our saving others at the cost of sacrificing. If you are a parent you have done this. If you are a spouse you have done this. If you are a sibling you have done this. Salvation is a communal work with Holy Spirit as our Guide. Find hope because you have brought salvation to someone.

Saturday, December 15 -

Quote for the day:

*“We have to let go of the life we have planned...to accept the one that is waiting for us.”*

—Joseph Campbell

Read: Exodus 3-4

**Ponder:** Moses was not the first or last who was called to let go of the comfort of the life he had known; he is in company with Abraham, Jacob, Ruth and Naomi...the list is long. Our lives, as much as we would like to think otherwise, are not in our control.

**Challenge:** There is a great desire on our behalf to get a little obsessive about our lives...or maybe really obsessive in some cases. Remind yourself of times where the journey did not go as planned but the end result was more than you could have hoped for or imagined!