

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 1:18-25
Singing: 266:1-3 – 364:2, 4– 328:1-4 – 448:4 – 179:1-4

JOSEPH' DARK NIGHT TURNED LIGHT

I. Who was Joseph? II. What was his dark night?
III. How was it turned into Light?

I. WHO WAS JOSEPH?

A. Holy Spirit described Joseph as a *just* (compare Luke 1:6)

1. just is *legal term* instead of a *moral description*

2. *Just Joseph* is lovely man as he has been touched by a *lovely God*

II. WHAT WAS JOSEPH'S DARK NIGHT?

A. Many *life-defining* moment that turn their world upside down

1. Joseph's was a *social scandal* (Mat. 1:18-19)

2. Joseph faced a moral and spiritual crisis in that fact

3. His intended action illustrates Joseph's godly graciousness

B. God often *uses dark nights as prelude to great lights* (Is. 9:2)

1. The *fall* was God's stage to bring to light the majesty of His grace

2. So personal failures and falls God allows to provide the opportunity to bring to light the glory of His grace

3. Take courage, even if you failed or meet with impossibility: *The Child of Bethlehem spells Grace and Hope*

III. HOW DID GOD TURN JOSEPH'S DARK NIGHT INTO LIGHT?

A. It was in the message of God's angel: vs. 20, 21

1. What was the message?

a. the address: *Joseph, thou son of David*

b. the reassurance: *Fear not*

c. the revelation: *her Son is Jesus, the Savior*

B. The true meaning of Christ's birth: *Immanuel – God with us!*

1. How can this be possible: *God with us – the most unequal yoke?*

2. Angel of God's message is God's Gospel:

a. Jesus saves: *what does that imply?*

b. His people: *what are all of them like?*

c. saves them from all their sins: *how?*

- by God coming in the holy flesh of this Child (vs. 20, 24)

- by this Child taking the place of sinners (2 Cor. 5:21)

- by this Child's Spirit dwelling in sinners (1 John 3:24)

Final Reflections:

A. Are you discouraged about being saved?

B. Are you asking what you must do then to be saved?

Surrounded with clouds of distress, and tempted all hope to resign,
I pant of the light of Thy face, that I in Thy beauty may shine.

Disheartened with waiting so long, I sink at Thy feet with my load.
All plaintive I pour out my song and stretch forth my hands unto God.

Shine, Lord, and my terror shall cease, the blood of atonement apply.
And lead me to Jesus for peace, the Rock that is higher than I.

Speak Savior, for sweet is Thy voice, Thy presence is fair to behold,
I thirst for Thy Spirit, with cries and groaning that cannot be told.

If sometimes I strive, as I mourn, my hold of Thy promise to keep,
The billows more fiercely return and plunge me again in the deep.

While harassed and cast from Thy sight, the tempter suggests with a roar,
"The Lord has forsaken you quite, thy God will be gracious no more."

Yet, Lord, if Thy love has designed, no covenant blessing for me,
Ah! tell me, how is it I find some sweetness in waiting for Thee?

Almighty to rescue Thou art, Thy grace is immortal and free;
Lord, succor and comfort my heart, and make me live wholly to Thee.