

## ***Adult Bible Discovery- December 20, 2020:***

As we prepare for the coming of the Messiah once again, we also remember that Christ has come. He became Immanuel, that is God with us! For the weeks of Advent, we will be using devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries and their resource entitled *God With Us*. If you are interested in more devotions and studies like this, click on this link: <https://www.lhm.org/advent/> Please also consider giving a donation to LHM to help them bring Christ to the nations and the nations to the Church.

Christmas is a time for reflecting. We think of holidays past and the one that's upon us. As you read the messages of *God with Us*, consider the many ways that God is present in your life—through His Word, your loved ones, the fellowship of believers, Holy Communion, and more. His love for us is personal. He proved that in a Bethlehem manger—God's only Son born for all mankind, so that through the Christ Child we might know life with Him forevermore.

### **A THIRD WAY**

*And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. (Matthew 1:19)*

Joseph found himself caught in a nightmare situation that was none of his fault. His fiancée was pregnant, and he knew he was not the father. By Jewish law he had a legal case against her for adultery—and the traditional penalty for that was death by stoning. Hurt though he must have been, Joseph had no desire for that.

There was another option in Joseph's day, which was to divorce her. He could do that as publicly or quietly as he liked. Being a compassionate man, he decided to do it quietly and hope that the reason didn't become widely known. These were the only two choices he had—or so he thought.

A third choice opened up when the angel came to visit him—a choice Joseph never could have imagined. He could go ahead and take Mary home to be his wife, and take Jesus to be his son. This would be an act of sheer grace. If he chose to believe her story, he would be laying himself open to the mocking of everybody in the village who learned she was pregnant too early. He would be blamed.

We know what Joseph chose. And is it really surprising, this small act of grace, in a story which is all about God's grace to us? God didn't have to save us—didn't have to take us into His family— didn't have to love and accept us as His own. But He chose to make it so—through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus.

***Father, thank You for graciously making me Your own. Amen.***

### ***Reflect & Discuss:***

- 1. What do you do when there are no good choices?*
- 2. Did you, or someone you know, ever find an unexpected gracious option to take?*
- 3. When has someone shown you unexpected grace?*