

Joseph's Obedience - 26 Dec 2004

- Joshua Daniel

In Luke the 2nd chapter and the 19th verse: Mary, who kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Why is it we are so voluble? We speak out without thinking. You know, one of the disciplines which I had to learn early was this; I tended to be a chatterbox and one of the first things that Jesus did for me was put a clamp on my mouth. You don't know what that saved me from. Idle words were out and I would think before I would speak, pondering, thinking became very important to me before I uttered something. My dear friends you don't know what it saved me from. How often we talk about things of which we know little or nothing. Mary pondered all these things in her heart and of course she had a wonderful person in Joseph and we don't see a single utterance of his in all the bible narrative, not a single utterance. Strange person must be or if Mary was the talkative type she must have said hey why don't you talk? Why don't you get hurt, you see folks, here was Joseph a man of action, concrete action; take now the child and flee to Egypt because Herod is seeking the life of the little child. Did he have one of those fine mini vans, heated vehicles with all the little contraptions? Did they have anything of the sort? He did it, he obeyed. My dear friends what will it take for us to become an obedient people? You know one of my sorrows; my first meeting was I think alcoholics anonymous. It was a huge meeting because there was a lot of alcoholism there and the burden of my message was "God saw the oppression", God heard the cry of the people as they were oppressed in Egypt. It was a terrible message which would put us in the hands of the secret police but I had to unburden my soul. I had to preach the truth whatever the consequences. It is the word of God, so I used to as I pass through all the embattlements and the gun placements and all the fortifications across the border I used to say "Lord when are you going to free these people? When are you going to set them free", but I say to myself how little have we done? Yes I had some meetings, retreat, and we sent a couple out ,to that area and one of our team has been helping orphans and boys from the streets who are taken and one of our team members has been seeking to do that. When I look at Joseph and see his obedience to the call of God, how many of us would be obedient if God said "Go yonder there is need there, lift those people". Now my dear friends, we did not show the love of Jesus, we have

not taken love, we have been wanting in love; Christmas is the story of love, God's love. My dear friends when our direction and attention is focused on the dollar don't tell me that there is much room for God's love there. This relentless pursuit of the dollar that is the rage of our generation the relentless pursuit of the dollar. What does it do, it destroys morality. Where is the room for truth? When the dollar is all that you really want, where is the room for holiness? My dear friends, dollars will never buy purity; the cross is the only place where the uncleanness of our hearts and the untruthfulness of our words will ever be healed, the cross. And now if we bring much talking into the family there is simply no hope. I want to tell all the ladies here, the girls here, whatever feminism may teach you, if you would be a praying mother rather than a talking mother you will get things done. You will build a strong family, a beautiful family. For a talking mother I have little hope. I have seen a praying mother, she prayed with me. The night when I was seeking God at 2 O'clock in the night she was kneeling in prayer with me. The next night when I met the lord at midnight she was still kneeling in prayer with me. It takes a praying mother to bring any sense into the jungle of the family today. It takes a praying father to bring any wholesomeness or meaning to a family today and what a family is set before us at Christmas! Mary pondered all these things in her heart and she spoke nothing. Before Christ was born, she broke out in the triumphant cry, we'll just read two verses of it, 1st chapter of Luke 46 :Mary said, My soul doth magnify the lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: Everybody here who aims to be a princess, self-titled princess, you know a tailor made princess, tailors can't make a princess, can they? But we have too many tailor made ones today. Here is Mary saying God has regarded me in my low estate. He lifted me he regarded me in my low estate. How many of us can handle a low estate? You know it's all right as long as the cash flow is there and the money is coming in and you can make your payments for the car, for the house, for all the borrowing on the credit card but everything collapses suddenly. How do you handle that? So somebody calls you lowest fellow in the country, how do you handle that? Are you geared to handle that? Mary is geared; he hath regarded the low estate of his hand maiden. My dear friends, it's beautiful, coming to the manger of Jesus Christ is beautiful. It cuts me to size, it cuts you to size and gives to us a new and a humble outlook and perspective.