

Not Another Hallmark Christmas

Disappointed

It's many a girl's Christmas dreams ... the white dress, the rose and daisy bouquet, her dad – no, her father – walking her down the aisle to meet her Prince Charming at the altar. Every eye on her, stunned by her beauty, envious of her poise and grace. But the fairytale Christmas wedding isn't in the cards for some. Life gets in the way and can try to defeat us with a cruel twist. This week in the Not Another a Hallmark Christmas series we'll take another look through Mary's eyes at that very first Christmas.

Matthew 1:18–25

1. Disappointment comes in the gap between _____
and _____.

2. No expectations, no disappointment ... and no _____,
_____, _____, or _____.

3. Healthy spiritual response to disappointment:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll reflect on a recent disappointment to see where God's hand was in it
- I'll watch How to Get Past Disappointment on RightNowMedia
- I'll put the Healthy Spiritual Response to Disappointment where I can review it ... and practice it the next time I'm disappointed

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25

Introduction: Only a few of the Hallmark Christmas movies actually have a wedding, although most imply a wedding will soon be taking place. In our culture, a big, white wedding is a societal expectation. Although the Jewish wedding customs of the first century are different from our own, the celebration was certainly as extravagant in its own right, and young women would have looked forward to their “big day.” When the angel Gabriel told her of her impending pregnancy, Mary probably didn’t think through all the implications ... including the fact that she was giving up any prospects of her dream wedding. Once again, Mary’s Hallmark Christmas came crashing in around her.

1. How do you handle disappointment? Explain.
2. Read Matthew 1:18–25. What kind of expectations do you think Joseph had about his upcoming marriage to Mary?
3. In verse 19, why do you think Joseph was torn between being obedient to the law and being a person of grace?
4. Read Joel 2:28 and Matthew 1:20–21. Why do you think God chose to speak to Joseph through a dream?
5. Did Joseph take the “easy way out” by being obedient to his dream? Or do you think he was a person of deep faith who responded because he believed in his dream? Why?
6. Although both Mary and Joseph experienced disappointment in this situation, both were obedient. What were the results of their obedience, both short term and long term?
7. Dr. Bill said that one “solution” to disappointment was to lower or eliminate our expectations. Is this a good and viable solution? Why or why not?

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?
