

Our God Transformed

[Matthew 1:18-23](#)

Rev. Curtis Bablitz

December 21, 2025

Sometimes I will go back and look at pictures of my children when they were babies, and it's amazing to see how much they have changed in only a few years, but it's also amazing to see how much I've changed. Having children completely changes your life – before I had kids I had a lot more free time, and a lot more energy, and a lot more hair. So I wonder if Joseph knew what he was getting himself into. When he heard the news that his fiancée Mary was pregnant, and he knew he wasn't the father, he decided to quietly end the marriage and move on with his life. But then this angel shows up in his dream and tells him not to be afraid, to take Mary as his wife, to take responsibility for her son and claim him as his own, because this child would be the Son of God who would save people from sin. And if anything, that's even more intimidating. Raising a child is difficult. Raising someone else's child is difficult. But raising God's child? Joseph is signing up for something incredibly challenging: taking Mary as his wife, raising Jesus as his son, that will change Joseph's life. Nothing will ever be the same for him from this moment onwards. Choosing to stay with Mary and Jesus will mean his life will be in danger, his reputation in the community will be ruined, his life will be filled with worry and fear and uncertainty. This is his last chance to live a

quiet life, a peaceful life, a life without the stress and drama of raising a child who will one day turn the entire world upside down. But Joseph doesn't hesitate. He chooses to love Mary, and to love Mary's son, and to allow that love to change his life forever.

Because that's what love does. It changes you. When you choose to love someone, you can't stay the same, because some part of you will always be with that person you love – caring for them, worrying about them, sharing their joys and their sorrows, helping heal their pain, helping dry their tears. Choosing to Love means choosing sleepless nights and thinning hair, stress and exhaustion, backaches and heartaches. That's what Joseph chose when he chose to love Jesus. That's what Joseph chose when Joseph chose Love.

And that's what God chose when God chose to love us. We like to think of God as eternal, unchanging, this infinite power behind the universe, existing so far above our petty little troubles, but the truth is, God loves us. God chose to love human beings, God chose to be involved in our drama, our pain. When humanity rebelled against God's power, God would've been perfectly justified to just put us away quietly, spend eternity enjoying some peace and tranquility, but instead, God decided to love us, and love changes you. Love even changes God, because God loved us so much, he gave his only son. God entered into this world and became weak, vulnerable, God made himself out of flesh and blood inside a teenage

peasant's womb. And every moment of his life here on earth became a part of who God is for all eternity. Every triumph and tragedy, every joy and sorrow, every betrayal, every denial, every nail and every thorn, all of it, all of it is now and forever part of who God is. God chose this, because God loves us, and love changes you.

And if that's how God loves us, what does it look like when we choose to love God in return? We have been invited to turn away from a quiet, peaceful life and instead embrace the danger and uncertainty and transformation that comes through the love of Jesus Christ, to let Emmanuel, God with us, enter in and turn our lives upside down. The same love that became human in Bethlehem is waiting for us, and when we choose to love, we will never be the same again. Thanks be to God.