

Thoughts and Lesson on being chosen for a special purpose:

Because of who you were chosen to be, do you ever suffer from feelings of loneliness?

Abandonment ?

Loss of dreams ?

–over and over again

How do we deal with these thoughts?

But oh, there are such wonderful things we experience with our children, too! Aren't there?

Our children are perfect – they are gifts!

They are chosen. We are chosen.

They were created by God.

They are God's work of art!

If you look at the book of Matthew you'll see Jesus' lineage. Jesus' birth had been planned for a long time!

Let's go to just before the announcement -

Mary was getting married! She was excited. She probably told all her girlfriends, she was making plans, she was dancing in front of the mirror, packing her things, getting ready to be Joseph's wife. Yes, they'd talked about having children....

Joseph? He probably told a few of the guys. Perhaps they had a celebratory moment or two. He was preparing his house for his new bride – making all the furniture they'd need. He was getting things in order to provide for his wife – he had some money saved to maybe even start his own business - Furniture Fair! And sure, they'd have kids! He loved kids – He could teach them his craft; they could help him with the store...

STOP

Then an angel came to Mary. (Luke 1:26)

At the time, she felt chosen.... God chose her! What a blessing! How beautiful!

But, when she had to tell her M & D, her friends, everyone, did she feel chosen???

Did they understand?

Were they embarrassed, confused?

Were they supportive or afraid?

Did they hold her or run away?

Did anyone else understand?

When she told Joseph, his dreams were crushed. He wanted to get out/get a divorce – He couldn't handle this!

Neither of them planned to be in THIS story.

In some ways their lives were normal –

When Jesus got lost, they panicked just like any parent would panic.

He learned his father's trade, he played kick ball with the neighbor boys....

Throughout His life, they learned from their son just as He learned from them—

But He was different.

He was special.

And with His special-ness there was controversy,

sadness mixed with gladness,

wonder and amazement mixed with doubt and fear.

Every day was a new experience – some good, some more challenging than one could imagine.

I wonder: Did Joseph ever just drop his head into his hands exhausted, exasperated, worn out by the responsibilities of raising this child?

I wonder: when Jesus was on the cross, did Mary still feel chosen? Or did she have a moment when she cried out, “Why me, Lord?”

God interrupted their lives.

When He knew he had the right people, he didn't stop due to inconveniences, discomfort, struggles it would cause them - Why? b/c He had already given them what they needed to get through it all.

And how did they get through it all?

One: They knew God's promises of Old (Testament.)

Two: When they faltered, questioned, doubted, they prayed; they asked God for help and strength and guidance. Then they prayed some more, and they lived in hope.

I'm sure there were nights when one of them held the other as he/she cried through the night wondering how he/she was going to get through tomorrow, wondering why God “blessed” them with such a child as His... A child that required so much strength, one that challenged them so much more than their friends' “normal” kids.

They didn't know what would happen the next day, but they did know that God would get them through whatever was thrown at them. And boy! Their story is the best one out there!

Not to elevate any one of us to the level of the Holy Family---but---we are all holy children in God's family, too.

We are all chosen. According to Psalm 17 (v.8) we are the apple of His eye!! How cool is that?!

Our child has a history and lineage. (With the beginnings of it right there in the Bible!)

Our children were not just dropped into this world. God waited 'til He had the right person, the right people. God waited until it was the right time.

I had plans, you had plans – not too many of us planned to have a child that requires such care. My oldest daughter asked me once, “Was Kelly an ‘oops’?” I laughed as I answered, “You were the oops!”

But really, none of us are “oops-es”.

God planned each one of us—you, me, and each of our children.

We are all the work of God's hand according to Isaiah 64:12.

God gave us – as the parents and caretakers – trials, experiences, exposure to events, people, “things” throughout our lives to prepare us for this blessed job. I don't know about you, but I don't remember interviewing or training for this job – I was hired without my even knowing it. And believe me, if I were the hiring agent, I would not have hired me! I don't have any of the qualifications I would deem necessary to handle all that goes with having a special needs child! But I'm judging by human standards. God judges by His.

Like Mary and Joseph, Kevin's and my “perfect” little lives were interrupted by God's plan. But oh what a beautiful interruption it has been!

Yes, Kelly is a lot of work.

Yes, we've each shed tears, lost sleep, our tempers, and a little blood in our efforts to be the best parents we can be for her.

But our strength comes from the Lord. (“O Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.” Isaiah 32:2) It has to! (And I have this verse taped right there on the wall above my deoderant so I see it every morning.)

God's mercies are new every morning. And Thank you, God, that they are because there are plenty of days that I'm afraid to face and yesterdays that I'd like to have as do-overs—or just plain old forget!

No, I am in no way Mary, and no offense, honey, you are not Joseph - But we are Judy and Kevin, chosen by God to be the parents of Kelly, as different and special as she is. He gives us exactly what we need each and every day – just as the stories throughout the Bible tell – He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It is our job to trust and believe and hope in those promises.

And as it says in Isaiah 35 (verse 6,) One day, we—even those who don't have voices here on earth—will ALL shout for joy!

And although we should rejoice and be glad because this may be the day the Lord has made, (Psalm 118).... That is a day I look forward to.

My favorite Psalms:

Psalm 25 (To you o Lord, I lift up my soul.)

Psalm 27 The Lord is my Light and My Salvation

Psalm 37 Trust in the Lord and do good...

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 38: 22 Lord, do not forsake me, stay close, Come quickly to help me!

Psalm 42 Why so downcast, O my soul? Put your hope in God.

Psalm 59: 16 But I will sing of your strength in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

62:2 He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

63: 3 because your love is better than life, my lips with glorify you.

6 On my bed I remember you...you are my help...your right hand upholds me

81:7 In your distress you called, and I rescued you, I answered you out of a thundercloud.

10 Open wide your mouth and I will fill it!

96 Sing to the Lord a new song!....burst into jubilant song with music...shout for joy!

139 O Lord, you search me and you know me...you are familiar with all of my ways....