

*Series: The Winding Road to Bethlehem, # 3*

When Life Doesn't Go As Planned

**Matthew 1, Luke 2**

We imagine the Christmas narrative as almost perfect, since we surround it with beautiful lights, angelic tunes, nicely wrapped gifts and delicious treats. But the Gospels reveal it is a very human story, with imperfect characters and bumps in the road, very much like our own experience.

Some life lessons from Joseph, of whom the Bible tells us very little:

1) *Plans*

Proverbs 16:9

Proverbs 19:21

James 4:13

2) *Character*

Luke 2:5

Matthew 1:19

3) *Purity*

Matthew 1:18

Matthew 1:25

4) *Trust*

Matthew 2:13-23

5) *Reward*

Luke 2:41-52

As you look back on 2018, what plans have gone awry?

What has been your response?

Has your character grown, or faltered?