

Hidden Jesus Part #2

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I Have one more twist to the story I was telling yesterday bout Latin Americans not putting the baby Jesus into their Manger scenes until Christmas Eve, to remember the baby's actual arrival and how in the same way, God also hid the baby from view inside of Mary, waiting for the revelation of all the baby would grow into being.

As a man, I will admit to being rather unused to using pregnancy metaphors, so some of your minds may have already gone to what to me seems like a revelation. However a revelation is still true, no matter how slowly we may arrive at the truth. Just as God planted Jesus to grow inside of Mary, so too, God places acts of service and giving and grace inside of each of us to be revealed at the right time. We have all had the experience of ideas, certainties, and plans grow and gestate in our minds over time, and that is the process to which I refer.

I still do not understand how God connects with our mind and/or Spirit to inspire us to action, just as I don't understand how the Biblical description that God knits us inside out mothers' wombs fits with what I do know about human reproduction and genetics. However, I do see a similarity between the birth of a baby, born with all the potential in the world and the birth of a thought that grows within us, until the time is right, and it urgently needs to come out into the light of day, seemingly at some divine command.

For example, I have a dream. And even though mine is not as broad or grand the one that Martin Luther King had, I think all ideas that give glory to God run a similar course. As I have begun to look to purchase a house in an affordable place outside of DC, I think about the community-building effects of a community theatre, and I hope to start a group in whichever place we land. I don't know where, and I'm learning to not get too excited about any one place as the realities of home purchase rise and fall. In the

same way, Mary had no idea that giving birth would involve a ride on a donkey to Bethlehem, and I can't predict where or exactly what form a community theatre might take. MLK also did not have a copy of the Voting Rights Act in hand when he made his bold statement.

All such journeys have a process which start much as Mary's did when she responded to the angel, "may it happen to me as you have said. I am the Lord's servant." Giving birth to inspiration or any other of the Creator's babies is a humble act as Mary also notes, as she simply says yes to being the vessel.

I discussed yesterday, that finding Jesus' presence and receiving the blessings of the Christmas or any season comes through patience, not from looking hard or planning in detail. We must wait to open the beautiful gifts when the time is right. Sometimes we need to stock the donkey's saddle bags with needed provisions, but generally these are simply journeys of faith.

Not every gestation moves the world like the birth of its Savior, but if God inspires an idea or act of kindness or goodness in you, let it come to completion by saying "yes, Lord, I am your humble servant." The complete plan does not need to be visible, much less in hand. In this way, the Word of God becomes flesh, sometimes our flesh, and while we will never be as famous as MLK or the Virgin Mary, that is not the point, but to participate in God's work on earth is the most beautiful gift to give or receive. I urge you and all of us to begin the process by saying "yes" to the inspiration God has given you and to be God's servant to bring it to life.