

## Beyond Circumstances

Mary and Joseph had more than their share  
of **interruptions** and **inconvenienc**es that could of  
\_\_\_\_\_ their courage and obedience.

Close to the time of delivery - a trip to Bethlehem  
Caring for a small child - fleeing in the night to Egypt  
After some time in Egypt - then a call to Nazareth

Circumstances (can) C \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 2:1-5  
where God \_\_\_\_\_ us.

### Physically

*The LORD works out everything for His own ends ... In his heart  
a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*  
Proverbs 16:4 & 9

*I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man  
to direct his steps.* Jeremiah 10:23

*From one man He made every nation of men, ... and He  
determined the times set for them and the exact places where they  
should live.* Acts 17:26

### Emotionally

*I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with  
integrity. ...* 1 Chronicles 29:17

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my  
anxious thoughts.* Psalm 139:23

*The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests  
the heart.* Proverbs 17:3

*But, O LORD Almighty, you who judge righteously and test the  
heart and mind, ...* Jeremiah 11:20

**When tested, are we \_\_\_\_\_ by God,  
our flesh or the enemy?**

Circumstances (can) C \_\_\_\_\_  
God's \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

*In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet  
has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no  
means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a  
ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Matt. 2:5-6*

**Do I just \_\_\_\_\_ that my circumstances  
are outside of the things God will use?**

Circumstances (can) C \_\_\_\_\_ ... Luke 2:6-12  
to God's \_\_\_\_\_ audience.

through God's surprisingly \_\_\_\_\_ way.  
Luke 2:13-20

A king of Israel is born - David's Birth place  
not the capital city

A newborn, born among the animals - Shepherds visit  
Dedicated in the temple - blessed by Godly people  
The child in a home - Wise men (from the east) bring gifts

### When Israel was in Captivity:

*Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have  
carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it  
prosper, you too will prosper.* Jeremiah 29:7

**Am I \_\_\_\_\_ that my reactions  
to my circumstances are being seen by others?**

Circumstances can be C \_\_\_\_\_, but then  
God's \_\_\_\_\_ is noticeable.

**Optional Reading:** Key Words are "Plans" and "Steps" (14 chapters)  
**Job 42 Psalm 33, 37, 40, 85, 140**  
**Proverbs 12, 14-16, 19-21 Jeremiah 29**