

# Weary World Rejoices: Rejoice in the Unexpected

By Brett Hilliard, December 07, 2025

**Shepherds** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2:8-9 NIV

**Mary** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Luke 1:31-32 NIV

And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

Luke 2:35 NIV

**Joseph** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt."

Matthew 2:13 NIV

Four helpful reminders for finding joy amid the unexpected:

1. Control ☒ is an illusion

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21 NIV

2. Life isn't random ☒ . Look for God in the details.

He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.

Psalms 121:3 NASB 1995

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

Matthew 10:29 NIV

3. God's presence ☒ is your present.

Mary: "How will this be?" Angel: "The Holy Spirit..."

Luke 1:34-35 NIV

4. Timing ☒ is everything

But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-5 NIV

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. What circumstances are bringing you anxiety or frustration lately?
- 2. How does trusting in God’s timing help you in dealing with your life’s circumstances?