



WORD ON THE STREET



It took me awhile for me to fully understand that God had a plan for my life and it was good. His divine plan was for my benefit and it was a loving plan but I soon realized that it wasn't always going to be plain sailing or painless. The other thing I discovered was that it didn't mean that it would always be convenient and fit into my plans. Just think of the birth of Jesus and how inconvenient it was for Mary and Joseph. God had turned their lives upside down and what was inconvenient for these soon to be earthly parents of the Son of God was God's perfect timing. Think about everything that was happening in Mary and Joseph's life and then another inconvenience is thrown into the mix. The governor decided it would be a great time to have a census which meant these young parents had to make the long journey to Bethlehem and while they were there it was time for Jesus to be born. So, in the middle of trying to work out what being future parents would be, they would have to make their way to Joseph's ancestral town. Can you even start to imagine the chaos that this brought? If the government today made a rule like that, and every single person had to go back to the town they were from at the same time, it would be

chaos. Every plane, train, and automobile would be booked. Every highway would be filled. It would be incredibly frustrating and remarkably inconvenient. So, trying to make this journey and be nine months pregnant was a challenge to say the least. Talk about being inconvenient and then to cap it all off you have to do it riding on a donkey. Then, when Mary gets to Bethlehem, she has to deliver her own baby without the help of her mom or a midwife, in a barn, surrounded by a bunch of animals. Jesus was born into chaos and nothing about His birth was convenient. But everything that was happening was part of God's plan. We can easily forget that God is in control of our lives even when everything seems to be falling like a line of



dominoes. It had been told to the Jewish people that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. The inconveniences to get them there were part of a bigger plan for Joseph and Mary, one that was better than they could have ever dreamed.

I have come to appreciate Joseph and Mary so much. They trusted God through the twist that He had put in their lives. Even in their discomfort and fear, they followed the will of God. What a lesson this can be for us. Just like Mary and Joseph we too can trust that a lot of the things God does in our lives are because He knows best. He might use some inconveniences to get you where you need to be, but he is always working for your good and working out his purposes in your life. Take some time to reflect and answer these questions. What inconveniences has God used to get you where you needed to be? What character traits do you think God is trying to grow in you when you face obstacles and inconveniences? Do you know what your purpose is—the reason God put you on this earth? How has He provided for you so that you can pursue His purpose for you?

I want to wish you all a wonderful and happy new year that is full of the blessings of God.