

The Time Between

等待的期間

Luke 2:18-19 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

路加福音2:18凡聽見的，就詫異牧羊之人對他們所說的話。19馬利亞卻把這一切的事存在心裏，反覆思想。

We have this tendency to get caught up in the excitement of what is new, but not the same excitement about settling in for the long haul afterwards. 我們常常被新事物的新鮮感所吸引而感到興奮，但是久了以後的就不興奮不新鮮了。

Inter: How do we live in the times between – after God intervenes and shows up – after life is interrupted – when our next steps are determined by that intervention, but the excitement factor – is gone.

事件之間：在上帝介入並顯現在我們的生活之後-在生命被神的介入打斷，當我們的行動計劃被神干預且不再對生命感到興奮之後，我們如何過日子？

Trans: Mary was on such a journey following with birth of Jesus and I think we can learn a lot as we travel with her. Let's look at the crescendo of events that happened when Jesus was born...

經過：瑪麗亞從耶穌降生之後就開始了這樣的旅程，我覺得我們可以從瑪麗亞的經歷學到很多東西。讓我們看一下耶穌出生時發生的各種事件……

Luke 2:8-14. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

路加福音2:8在伯利恆之野地裏有牧羊的人，夜間按著更次看守羊群。9有主的使者站在他們旁邊，主的榮光四面照著他們；牧羊的人就甚懼怕。10那天使對他們說：「不要懼怕！我報給你們大喜的信息，是關乎萬民的；11因今天在大衛的城裏，為你們生了救主，就是主基督。12你們要看見一個嬰孩，包著布，臥在馬槽裏，那就是記號了。」13忽然，有一大隊天兵同那天使讚美神說：

14在至高之處榮耀歸與神！

在地上平安歸與他所喜悅的人

Luke 2:15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

路加福音 2:15 眾天使離開他們，升天去了。牧羊的人彼此說：「我們往伯利恆去，看看所成的事，就是主所指示我們的。」

Luke 2:16-20 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

16 他們急忙去了，就尋見馬利亞和約瑟，又有那嬰孩臥在馬槽裏；17 既然看見，就把天使論這孩子的話傳開了。18 凡聽見的，就詫異牧羊之人對他們所說的話。19 馬利亞卻把這一切的事存在心裏，反覆思想。20 牧羊的人回去了，因所聽見所看見的一切事，正如天使向他們所說的，就歸榮耀與神，讚美他。

Luke 1:1-4 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

路加福音 1: 2 提阿非羅大人哪，有好些人提筆作書，述說在我們中間所成就的事，是照傳道的人從起初親眼看見又傳給我們的。3 這些事我既從起頭都詳細考察了，就定意要按著次序寫給你，4 使你知道所學之道都是確實的。

Luke 1:31-33

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

路加福音 31 你要懷孕生子，可以給他起名叫耶穌。32 他要為大，稱為至高者的兒子；主神要把他祖大衛的位給他。33 他要作雅各家的王，直到永遠；他的國也沒有窮盡。」

God has a way of intense interruption. He changes our direction. The change is not to leave us in a state of hyper-excitement, but to set us on a course. He has purpose in our lives and the paths we walk. Once He sets us on that course, it is our turn to walk it out. 上帝有一種強烈的干預方式。他改變我們生命的方向。改變不是讓我們陷入過度興奮的狀態，而是讓我們踏上往前進的道路。他訂定我們的生命和人生的道路的標竿。一旦他使我們走上了這條道路，就該輪到我們走了。

Wonder 詫異

We are told, “And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.” Wonder is a reasonable response. 凡聽見的，就詫異牧羊之人對他們所說的話。詫異是一個合理的回應

“Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.” 馬利亞卻把這一切的事存在心裏，反覆思想

That’s how she describes life in between. After all the things said and all the miraculous events, and the long stretch of raising a child in obscurity, she treasured and pondered.

The road ahead for Mary would be mundane, miraculous, tragic and wonderful. If she had seen it laid out before it happened, she likely would have been overwhelmed. 她就是這樣描述兩者之間的生活。在所有的事情說完了，發生了所有的奇蹟之後，又長久地默默地撫養了一個孩子，她把這一切的事存在心裏，反覆思想。瑪麗亞的未來之路將是平凡，神奇，悲慘和美好的。如果她在事情發生之前就知道了事情始末，那麼她可能會不知所措。

If God were to listen to me, life would have been very different.

如果上帝聽我的話，生命將會大不相同

There have been times of struggle, pain and death I would have written out of my story.

我有時會在故事中掙扎，我會把痛苦和死亡從故事中去掉。

There have been times of trudging monotony that I would have written out of my story.

有時候我會寫出單調的故事。

There have been times of betrayal and dismissal that I would have written out of my story. 有時候我會背離和挪去我該走的路。

Yet every one of those times gave depth and meaning to life – and maybe a bit of wisdom. 然而，每一次這樣的事發生都賦予生活以深度和意義-所以也還有一點智慧。

Treasure存在心裏

Mary treasured. The Greek word for “treasured,” is *συνετήρει* (soon tay ray o), also means “kept safe.” 瑪麗亞惜。希臘文中的“珍惜”一詞是*συνετήρει*，也意味著“安全地保持者”。

Mary “kept these things safe,” because they were of great value to her. They were memorials of the tangible, physical events of a life in tune with God. Her memories included Gabriel visiting her and telling her that she would be the one by whom prophecy would be fulfilled, her submission and obedience, her cousin’s baby leaping in a womb, her husband’s belief in her, and a visit by shepherds who told of the Glory of God and the royal announcement. 馬利亞卻把這一切的事存在心裏，因為這些事對她來說很有價值。它們是一個與上帝同步的生命經歷的回憶。她的記憶包括加百列（拜訪她並告訴她，她將成為預言的應驗，她的順從和服從，表姐的孩子在腹中跳動，丈夫對她的信賴，以及牧羊人的拜訪，宣告了神的榮耀及王的到來。

It was important to treasure these things and to have a visible reminder of God’s presence in the life of our family. 重要的是要把這一切的事存在心裏，並讓我們回想上帝與我們的家庭同在。

Because life can be mundane 因為生活可以平凡

Because we live in a cynical world 因為我們生活在一個憤世嫉俗的世界

Because promises were made and fulfilled, and now the slow, hard work of life is in motion 因為應許已經實現成就了，現在生活中緩慢而艱苦的工作開始了

Because the passage of time makes us forget 因為時間的流逝使我們忘記

Ponder

Mary pondered. The Greek word for “pondered” is *συμβάλλω* (*sum ballow*), which means to pull together in one’s mind, to confer with one’s self. There is a difference between how we might think of what it means to ponder from what is Hebrew thought.

瑪麗亞反覆思想。希臘語中的“沉思”一詞是*συμβάλλω*（總和），意思是將自己的思想凝聚在一起，以表達自我。與希伯來思想的含義是有區別的。

The Hebrew sense of the word ponder different. Ron Rolheiser, in his book *Sacred Fire* says it this way, “to ponder, in the Hebrew sense, means to hold, carry, and transform tension, so as not to give it back in kind, knowing that whatever energies we do not transform we will transmit.” 希伯來語這個詞的含義有所不同。羅恩·羅爾海塞爾（Ron Rolheiser）在他的《聖火》一書中這樣說：“在希伯來語中，思考的意思是持有，攜帶和轉化的張力，以免將其回復到原狀，同時要知道我們若不被這思維的張力被轉化，這張力僅是從我們身上通過而已。”

Presence

She was in the presence of the living God. Jesus was with her. She moved in the presence of God in the flesh. Think about this for a minute. Something beautiful and life-sustaining in and of itself is the Presence of God in Mary’s life. God chose to reveal Himself to the world through the birth of a helpless baby. God entrusted Himself to a young peasant Jewish girl.

她在永生上帝的面前。耶穌與她同在。她與道成肉身的上帝一同生活。仔細想想。上帝的美麗而可持續的生命透過瑪利亞生命彰顯出來。上帝選擇通過一個無助的嬰兒的出生向世界展示自己。上帝將自己託付給一個年輕的鄉下猶太女孩。

Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. - 40孩子漸漸長大，強健起來，充滿智慧，又有神的恩在他身上。

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. - 52耶穌的智慧和身量，並神和人喜愛他的心，都一齊增長。

And Mary saw it all. And she treasured it. And she pondered it. 瑪麗亞看到了一切。她把這一切的事存在心裏。她反覆思想。

Yes, Jesus entered the world to Judge sin. But more importantly, He came to restore the broken relationship between God and Man. Jesus puts the human face on a God who is here to invite us home.

是的，耶穌進入世界審判罪惡。但更重要的是，他來恢復神與人之間破碎的關係。耶穌將人放回神的面前，神在這裡邀請我們回家。

We are in the presence of Jesus, because He is here. Now. Wherever you’ve gathered to hear this message. He is with us.

耶穌與我們同在，因為祂就在這裡。現在。無論您聚集在哪裡聽這個消息。他都與我們同在。

Luke 17:20–21 …he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

20法利賽人問：「神的國幾時來到？」耶穌回答說：「神的國來到不是眼所能見的。21人也不得說：『看哪，在這裏！看哪，在那裏！』因為神的國就在你們心裏」

We are Kingdom people. We belong to another reality that is not of this broken world. Jesus is the King of Heaven and has brought His Kingdom to Earth, alive in us.

我們是天國的人。我們屬於另一個不屬於這個破碎世界的實際國度。耶穌是天國之王，他將天國帶到了我們生命中。

To be part of this Kingdom is to recognize not only the brokenness of humanity – a brokenness we all share – but our absolute dependence on Jesus and on His desire for us to live in interdependence with one another. God wants to empower Kingdom people to live in a reality of “one-another-ness” that transcends the natural – because it is supernatural. It is the power of Jesus to give us strength in the tensions. In Matthew, He says,

成為這個天國的一部分，不僅要認識到人類的破碎-我們所有人都有這種破碎-而且要承認我們對耶穌及其對我們彼此依存生活的渴望的絕對依賴。上帝要授權天國人民生活在超越自然的“另一種”現實中，因為它是超自然的。耶穌的能力是在難處中賦予我們力量。他在馬太福音中說，

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

馬太福音11:28凡勞苦擔重擔的人可以到我這裏來，我就使你們得安息。29我心裏柔和謙卑，你們當負我的軛，學我的樣式；這樣，你們心裏就必得享安息。30因為我的軛是容易的，我的擔子是輕省的。」

Matthew 28:20 “...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

馬太福音28:20...我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。

Benediction

May you treasure the deposits God has made, from which you can draw strength May you find in your pondering the assurance of God’ s ability to carry you in the tension And may you know the Presence of God – in times when you read Scripture and His words speak life to you, in times when you give yourself to prayer and know He hears you, and in the places of stillness where He promises that in that place, you will know that He is God.

祝福

願你珍惜上帝投注在你生命中的一切，從中可以汲取力量

願您反覆思考上帝允許你生命中承受的挑戰以及祂的應許

願您您知道上帝的同在-

當你讀聖經，祂對你說話，

在你自己祈禱並知道祂聽到你的時候

在寂靜祂應許你的祈求的地方，你會知道他是上帝。