**Daily Prayer & Encouragement Sunday 20th December**

Now I am very old, I am so impressed with young men with strong faith. Their boldness and self-assurance indicates that they know God. Similarly, in the Christmas story, Joseph has that certainty in bucketloads.

I remember what seems like years of being shushed with “Don’t wake the baby, you’re crashing about like an elephant!”. But Joseph says “Wake up. We’re going to run for our life to a new country.” (Matthew 2:13). Mary must have said “Why?” and the reply, “God woke me up to tell me to go” must have sounded lame. As a justification for emigration, I’ve heard more convincing reasons.

But Joseph has form; all society says, “have nothing to do with that Mary, she’s unmarried and pregnant”, but Joseph says, “I’m here for you.” (Matthew 1:24). “Even though we have to go to Bethlehem where all my family come from, and none of them will take us in even though you are about to have a baby, we’ll manage in this stable.”

*Please Lord help me find room in my heart for that sort of faith and confidence in the inklings I have of what you want me to do. Please build a heart in me that says “right, let’s go”, and not one that listens to the perfectly reasonable list of good reasons not to go that society shouts at me.*

Tony Thornton

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