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This is the second in a series of four Wake Up Calls designed to help you think about the Christmas story.

It's very hard to know whether you are making the right decision in certain circumstances. If you are wise you will try to take all the factors you can into account. If you are ethical you will want to be true to your beliefs. If you are considerate then you will want to maximise human dignity and minimise human pain, especially if your decision affects others. If the decision is very important to you personally then you will want to ensure you are being honourable in all aspects.

Such was Joseph's moment. Faced with the dilemma of the young woman whom he loved and was in covenant to marry being pregnant and knowing the baby was not his, he did his very best to deal with it, with his shock and hurt and disappointment, in a thoroughly honourable way.

He tried to avoid scandal – which would have been ruinous for Mary – and decided to end their relationship discreetly leaving her as free from disgrace as possible. His motives were good, his intentions were caring. He attempted to be logical, rational and honourable. And he was wrong.

It is possible to make an honourable, ethical decision and still be wrong. This is particularly the case when thinking of giving up on someone or something. There is always a risk of incomplete knowledge and blurred vision. Perhaps you have to let someone go. It could be that you need to close something down. You may need to abandon a strategy and overhaul your approach.

At this moment Joseph did not realise he was part of something much bigger than he could see. It was greater than his concern about scandal (which would of course been his scandal as well) and it was a completely different situation than that which he thought he was facing. What he had not got was a divine perspective.

We must be careful here – we cannot see things as God sees them because we are not God. What we can do is see them as God wants us to see them.

To wrap the events around this moment two other dynamics need to be seen. First, Joseph was considering what he had in mind. Mulling it over, reflecting on it, looking at it from other angles he tried to come to a decision. Secondly, he slept on it.

Again we must not miss the moment. Joseph didn't just sleep on it to give himself more time. Joseph slept on it and God spoke to him in a dream. Once Joseph had received the message he completely reversed his decision.

When faced with a decision you will want to do the honourable thing but leave space for your own reflections and allow time for surprises from God. This is the season

DVD news



see below

for surprises after all. (Matthew 1:18-21)

Work Well,

Geoff Shattock

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Here is some Biblical background for this week's Wake Up Call

Matthew 1 v 18-21

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

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The details are in PDF format and include Programme Details, Speaker notes, Booking form and Free CD offer.
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- Geoff Shattock is on Sabbatical from 1 September 2006 to end Feb 2007. Please pray for him over this time. You can email WorkNet on the usual addresses and you will be directed to the right people.

- **Wake Up Call tips** - please don't reply to your Wake Up Call we do not monitor that address. If you want to contact WorkNet follow the contact link in your Wake Up Call. If you want to unsubscribe or change your profile (email or other details)-follow those links on the left hand side of your Wake Up Call -we are generally unable to update your profile for you but have made it very easy for you do do it online. Thank you.

Also remember to have a look at the Bible sections for the biblical background to your Wake Up Call

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