

As we have entered the season of Advent, hope is what we are celebrating. A hope that is divine. A hope that Mary, the mother of Jesus, had, and understood all so well. Today, the author of 1 Peter is reminding us of one of the reasons why this hope came to be.

It was through Mary's faithfulness to God and to her husband as the leader of their family, that hope was delivered to the world on Christmas night. Joseph was obedient to God's will when the angel appeared to him telling him to take Mary as his wife. Joseph was faithful to the law and followed God's command. Because of this, he took Mary to Bethlehem, and it was there that the hope of this world was born.

And then Joseph received a warning from God's angel saying, "Get up, take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I give you word; for Herod is about to search for the young child to destroy it" (Matthew 2:13). So, Joseph obeyed swiftly. He put his child's safety above all else and took his family to Egypt. His wife Mary followed faithfully. When the hunt for them came to an end, Joseph took Jesus and his wife Mary to Israel.

Mary was the wife that Apostle Peter talks about in today's scripture passage. Mary displayed Godly behavior that was of great worth in God's sight. And I don't think it would be wrong to say that her unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit was part of the reason why she was chosen as the Mother of our Savior. Because of her obedience to God, she followed her faithful husband Joseph as a faithful wife and a faithful woman of God. And together, Mary and Joseph, they were able to welcome the hope of this world—**Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

Ohana, I can only imagine what would have happened if Joseph was disobedient to what God had shown him in his dream. If Mary had refused to be the wife which 1 Peter describes today, what would have happened? What would have happened if Mary refused to flee to Egypt with Joseph? Probably not the story of hope that we celebrate thousands of years later today.

But because Joseph was obedient to what God had asked him, we have hope now. And because Mary was an obedient wife and woman of God, our hope that is Jesus Christ was born to us. Let us learn from Peter and reflect on what that looks like in our Advent season. Obedience to God and submission to His will brought us Jesus Christ—the greatest hope we will ever have. Let us also be

obedient to God by submitting ourselves to His will and allowing Him to work in us and through us. It is obedience that precedes hope. When we are obedient, hope follows for us, for others, and for the world. Amen!