



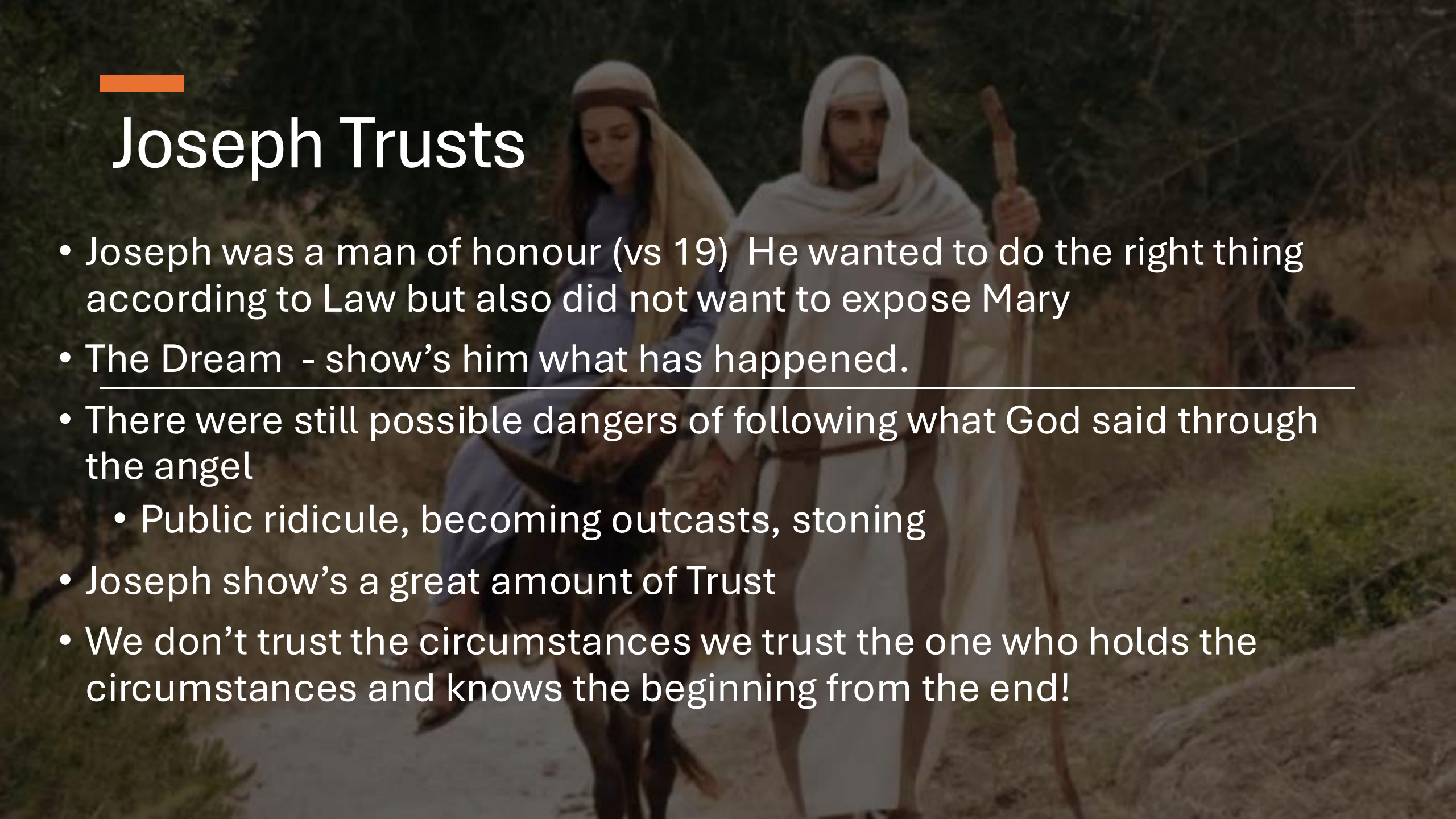
The Journey Towards Christmas

Mary & Joseph head toward Bethlehem
(Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-24)

Mary Obeys

- The angel visits Mary
- “Highly Favoured!” She asks, “How can this be?”
- We might ask - Why me? How? Why am I special?
 - *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:27*
- God is not looking for the strong or the best qualified – Humility and Obedience!
- Mary responds “I am the Lord’s servant,” “May your word to me be fulfilled.”
- Are we this obedient? What might God be asking you? How are you responding?
- Obedience is a key that unlocks God’s blessing. The journey might be difficult though





Joseph Trusts

- Joseph was a man of honour (vs 19) He wanted to do the right thing according to Law but also did not want to expose Mary
- The Dream - show's him what has happened.
- There were still possible dangers of following what God said through the angel
 - Public ridicule, becoming outcasts, stoning
- Joseph show's a great amount of Trust
- We don't trust the circumstances we trust the one who holds the circumstances and knows the beginning from the end!

The Holy Spirit Conceives



- *Because what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit! Vs 20*
 - One of the reasons Joseph could trust was that the Holy Spirit had given birth to this!
- The Holy Spirit births new things, We might receive –
 - Revelation
 - A word from God
 - Promptings
 - God moving circumstances
- New Birth's are not easy; there is a cost involved! "Birth Pains"
- However, there is the Joy of new life! If the Holy Spirit conceives it, it will happen!

Conclusion

- Learn Obedience – Like Mary, humbly respond and follow
- Trust God – Like Joseph, Even when we don't see the way Trust the one that does!
- Is the Holy Spirit conceiving something new in you? It might be difficult but if it is of God it won't fail!