Waiting In Confusion

Advent #2 – Joseph

I Am A Tsadiq!

translated – "righteous"

problem – "There's something about Mary..."

Reputation is Challenged

Matthew 1:18-19

Joseph may become an "Amha-aretz"

translated – "religious common"

Appeal to Torah

A. If Mary was seduced, both her & baby's father are killed

B. If Mary was raped, offender is killed

C. No guilty male = "Waters of Bitterness" (*Numbers 5:11-31*)

D. "token of virginity"

Struggle with God

Choice A – Love God through obedience to the Torah

Choice B – Love Mary & take her as his wife

Matthew 1:20-21

I Am Mary's Husband & Jesus' (legal) Father

Matthew 1:24

As Joseph's reputation is getting worse, his identity is getting better

His decision was one of obedience

Joseph learns that who he is before God (identity) is more important than who he is in the circle of his friends (reputation)

It was through the reputation-losing death of Jesus that creates an identity-forming life for those who desire to receive the gift of God's grace & forgiveness through Christ.