

December 9, 2018

Speaker: Tim McCardel

Message Series: A Journey To Christmas

Today's Message: Joseph's Obedience: Disrupted Plans

⇒ **Last week's questions:** "How would your life be _____ if Jesus Christ had not been born?" ... "What if Jesus had not come?"

Listen to This: "I have no problem preaching to the choir. Just because they know the tune, doesn't mean they _____ the words."

1 Corinthians 2:4, 5 "And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would not trust in human wisdom but in the power of God."

* Matthew 1:18-25

* **Truth:** Following God's plan will require change in your life but it's worth it.

1. Joseph—"Faithful to The Law": A Truly _____ Man

Matthew 1:19 "Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace..."

* **Joseph's Godly Life**—He knew God's Word (O.T.) and had a desire to please God over his own reputation: he loved Mary and did not want to disgrace her publicly.

* "It's easier to _____ strong children than repair broken men." ~Frederick Douglas

Joseph's Example:

1) Mary becoming pregnant thru the Holy Spirit certainly _____ Joseph to areas of faith, growth, and courage where he had never imagined!

2) Joseph doesn't act impulsively, but rather was open to _____ from God and His plan.

* "God speaks to us in our pleasures but He shouts to us in our pain." ~C.S. Lewis

2. Following God's Plan Will Require _____ In Your Life—BUT IT'S WORTH IT

* Matthew 1:20-23

⇒ God is more interested in your character than in your comfort.

Joseph's Life Now:

1) People thought he was a lying idiot; his life was a mess, and he couldn't control it.

2) Joseph paying attention to the dream from God allows God's peace to win over fear and worry.

Jesus' Name & Purpose: "... you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His People from their sins."

"**Jesus**" - same as Joshua and Jeshua in O.T.; it means "the Lord saves."

“Immanuel” - “God with us”, Jesus is not only the Messiah, but He is also God, come in the flesh.

3. Joseph’s Example of Obedience

* Matthew 1:24, 25

The Danger: Hearing clearly what God wants and then doing something different.

* Joseph aligned himself with God’s plan; not just acceptance but embracing God’s disruption.

* Mary and Joseph lived in harmony, both hearing God and following God; How Wise.

Eternity’s Two Big Questions:

1) “What did you do with My Son, Jesus Christ?”

2) “Did you fulfill the purpose that I put you on earth for?”

Truth: To fail on these 2 questions is more than embarrassment; they both have eternal consequences.