



LIFEWork: Joseph: A Call to Protect
Matthew 1:18-25 & Matthew 2:7-15 - December 17, 2017 – Pastor D R Hilken

LIFEGroups --- doing life together: Relationships & Discipleship.

Please discuss with one another anything that especially impacted you from hearing this weekend's message. (the message notes are on the back side of this page if they might help jog your memory)

Do a little research and be reminded of who was Matthew's primary audience?
Process what you read about Joseph that Matthew writes with that filter.

Read and compare the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke. Where do they merge?
This means that both of Jesus earthly parents are descendants of _____.
to Mary by blood
to Joseph by legal / royal

In Luke 2, which of the parents determined where they would go to fulfill the census?

God intended for Joseph to adopt Jesus as his own legal son. Read Galatians 4:4-8 and Romans 8:14-17 and think about your relationship with God.

"The strength of what we believe is measured by how much we are willing to suffer for those beliefs." Discuss the various ways that Joseph would potentially suffer from the decisions he made. What potential suffering do you face for your beliefs?

Try to get past the simple cut and dried answer that's always presented and examine this scene in Matthew chapter one and contemplate what Joseph's motives might have been for quietly divorcing Mary. Here's a hint ...
What if, before the angel's visit he didn't believe her? What if, before the angel's visit he did believe her?

One primary takeaway from the sermon this weekend was the concept of "immediate" obedience. Share with one another any possible areas where you have been "procrastinating" in obedience.

In your LIFEGroup, commit to being that accountability friend and prayer warrior as you also pray for each other's thanksgivings and requests.



Joseph: A Call to Protect

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:7-15

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God communicates through ...

- His Word
- Prophets (who speak/write His Word)
- Messengers in **PERSON** (God the Son, angels, prophets)
- Messengers in **DREAMS**
- Any other method He chooses

*Warning: God's written word **TRUMPS** any "I think"*

Joseph – a just man

The Call of Christmas to Joseph – Matthew 1:20-23

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Messiah **DEFINED**

A Jewish story through a Jewish man to a Jewish audience

A God who would **SAVE** them

A God who would **BE WITH** them

(**IMMEDIATE**) obedience

A formal retraction

FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND LIFEGROUPS THIS WEEK,
PLEASE USE THE LIFEWORk AVAILABLE AT SJLCHURCH.ORG/SERMONS OR THE
LIFEGROUP KIOSK.