

SERMON-BASED STUDY: FEAR NOT – WEEK TWO

Matthew 1:18-25, ESV – ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 2:13-15, ESV – ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 Do you think Joseph was afraid of what people would think? Why or why not? Share a time when you have felt afraid of what people would think.

2 How is fear connected with risk taking? Why is the willingness to take risks for God important for being used by God?

3 Do you agree with the idea that we can please God or please people, but not both? Explain?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Romans 6:16-18, ESV** – ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

4 The passage above distinguishes between being a slave of sin and a slave of righteousness. What is the difference between the two?

5 What does Paul mean by “present yourselves to anyone”? How does obedience relate to presenting yourself?

6 According to verses 17 and 18, God is the one who frees us from sin and makes us slaves of righteousness. How should we respond to this act of grace? Should we continue to live in fear? Explain.

B **John 15:18-19, ESV** – ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Galatians 1:10, ESV – ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Colossians 3:22-24, ESV – ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

7 Looking at John 15:18-19, why was it important for Jesus to speak to His disciples at this time about hatred toward Him and His followers? How is this still true today?

8 Looking at the passages above, what are the key principles in regards to our interactions with God and others?

9 Why does it matter if our motivation is right? If our action or conduct is right?

TAKING IT HOME

Joseph’s example reminds us that we are to live for God, no matter what people think. This involves giving God our best and obeying Him. Is God getting your best? Are you obeying Him or giving into the fear of what others might think? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you seek to obey Him no matter what.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 6:24, 33, 10:22, 22:37

Romans 12:2, 14:8

James 1:2-4

1 John 3:13