

Scott Leary's Sermon

1-2-2011

Matthew 1:18-25

"Joseph and Gods Faithfulness"

## I. Joseph's Faithfulness

1. Betrothed background; Mary has visited Elizabeth.
2. Interesting how Joseph was "just a man" (other translations say "a righteous or just man")—he was a guy who wanted to do things the right way, according to the law of God.
3. Scott's use of the phrase, "imagine how you would feel" was helpful. He helped us think about how we might handle gossip in our own lives, as a way to relate to what Joseph went through. And part of Joseph's faithfulness was that he "protected" Mary from the gossip.
4. Angel to Joseph: "You get to be the dad of this child who will be the savior of the world. It isn't from another guy. You will be his covenant guardian." How did Joseph respond? He responded by immediately obeying. There is an interesting contrast here between Joseph and Mary. Mary got to ask questions but Joseph was asleep and didn't get to ask questions.
5. Application question: do you want to ask God lots of questions, or do u need to humbly accept what God is doing and trust him.
6. I liked how Scott asked questions of the text, and at points answered by saying, "The story doesn't tell us..." This teaches us all humility in reading and asking questions of God's Word.
7. God called Joseph a "Son of David..." (what verse is this?) and it is likely that Joseph realized: "I get to realize what God had in mind all these centuries..." God gave Joseph an identity. He has done the same for us.
8. Darrin Patricks book *Church Planter*. Guys today are good for the porn and video & online gaming industry but not nearly as good for Christ's church.
9. Look at Joseph: he immediately followed gods call. He leaves comfort. He remains responsible for the family in the face of danger. Joseph speaks by his actions. He didn't waver.
10. Some of us are content to be spectator Christians. We lack confidence. We are afraid. We dot take our faith seriously. Or only during a church gathering.
11. What is causing you to doubt Gods call on your life?
12. The Christmas story is usually focused on the cute little child...but Matthew describes the danger after Jesus was born. He took his family to Egypt. He was responsible for their safety at every moment since Herod was attempting to destroy him. He had to guard his family. If you think about it, the nativity story is violent.

## II. God's Faithfulness:

1. Through all this God showed that he was faithful in leading Joseph. Gods faithfulness means he can always be relied upon to do what he promised.
2. Deuteronomy 32, "The Rock his ways are perfect..."
3. God was faithfully leading the Holy family through Joseph. This faithfulness is a communicable attribute of God. We can't take on some of gods attributes but we can reflect His faithfulness.
4. Looking at Scripture will help us to show love and reflect truth. This is important because we are in a society where truth doesn't matter any more. Wall Street. Politics.
5. Scott read Numbers 23. God is not a man that he should lie. The point: what we read is true. God won't change in the way he relates to us. He is a faithful God. He is our king.
6. How do we do at remembering God's faithfulness? Where are areas where you forget about Gods faithfulness. Where you don't live out Gods truth? It will be a sacrifice to make changes in these areas, to repent.
7. If you are not a Christian, where is the unbelief in your life? We all have similar struggles as you.