

Are You Ready for Christmas?

Week 2 outline

12.4.22

Mt 1:18-25

## Preparing for the Promise: Immanuel

### I. The Promise of God and A Response of Obedience

#### A. God's Promise to Joseph (vs 20-23)

- What is conceived is from the Holy Spirit
- Name him Jesus because He will save his people from their sins
- And they will call Him Immanuel (God with us)

#### B. Joseph's Response of Obedience (vs 24-25)

- He did what the angel commanded him
- He took Mary home as his wife
- He didn't consummate the marriage until she gave birth
- He gave him the name Jesus

### II. Obedience: Our Misunderstanding and God's Design

#### A. Our misunderstanding of obedience causes us to misinterpret Mt 1:19...

*"Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."*

- We falsely pit an obligation of obedience against the kindness of grace

#### B. We Tend to Believe Obedience:

1. Is the Opposite of Grace
2. Is Driven by Fear
3. Is Obligated to Work
4. Is Cursed by Pride and Shame

#### C. God's Understanding for Obedience

How do we prepare this season by obeying?

#### Let's look at vs 19 again with a very literal translation:

*"And her husband Joseph, since he was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly."* -Matthew 1:19 (NASB version)

#### 1. "since he was a righteous man"

- Where does our righteousness come from?
  - Righteousness comes by faith it's not earned by obedience!
  - ROMANS 4:2-5
  - GALATIONS 3:10-14

2. *"And did not want to disgrace her"*

-Joseph's life of faith in the coming messiah is also congruent with seeking grace instead of shame.

JOSEPH'S RESPONSE OF OBEDIENCE  
WAS AN OUTFLOW FROM A DEEP LIFE OF FAITH  
NOT A STRONG SENSE OF OBLIGATION

### **III. The Big Deal About Obedience**

#### **A. How Do We We Live it? (ROMANS 1:5)**

1. Where Does Obedience Come From?  
-IT COMES FROM FAITH THROUGH CHRIST
2. How do we Receive the Ability to do it?  
-IT FLOWS THROUGH GRACE FROM CHRIST
3. What's the point?  
IT'S ALL FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

OBEDIENCE IS OUR FAITH-FILLED AND GRACE-WILLED  
RESPONSE TO IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

#### **B. What Happens as we Obey?**

Faith-filled, Grace-willed obedience allows us to:

1. Trust the giver of the directive
2. Walk in love towards others
3. Lead with humility that serves God's kingdom
4. Give glory to God

#### **C. How do We Grow in it?**

##### **1. Hear the Word** -Romans 10:17

-How can I position myself to hear the word of God this season  
allowing my faith to strengthen?

##### **2. Practice the Word** -Matthew 7:24

-How am I practicing applying God's word to my life in a way that is full of  
faith, and grace, rather than obligation and fear?

##### **3. Remain in the Word** -John 15:4

-How might I choose to remain in the vine, who is Immanuel, God with  
us, this season?