

BELPRES  CHURCH

Sermon Title: Fear Not

Scripture:

Matthew 1: 18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[a] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[a] because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^[a] (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Discussion Questions: Matthew 1: 18-25

Read this week's scripture(s) & answer the below questions with your friends, family, or All In small group.

Opening Questions:

- Looking back, were you able to apply any of the things we talked about last time to your life this week? What did you do? How did it go?

Scripture Reflection Questions:

- What fears do you think Joseph had?
- What does the Angel say to Joseph in his dream, and why do you think it convinced Joseph to take Mary as his wife?
- Had you been Joseph, would what this Angel said to Joseph in a dream have convinced you? Why or why not?

Sermon Reflection Questions - *Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:*

- As a poor teenager, in the world's eyes Mary had no status or qualifications to play such a pivotal role in salvation history. What clues do you see in the text that may indicate why God chose her?
- What does it say about the character of God that he chose Mary for such an important role?
- How will this text shape what you think, feel, do this week?

Closing Question and Application:

- Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week?
- Who might you share this with?

Closing Group Prayer:

- Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.