

The SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS

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ALIVE IN ADVENT

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First
BAPTIST CHURCH - FLOIR

Act 1

What About Joe?

“ ¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

²³ ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means ‘God is with us.’”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.”

~ MATTHEW 1:18-25 (NLT)

5 Stages Joe went through:

Excitement – His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph (v18)

_____ – But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant (v18)

_____ – Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly (v19)

_____ – “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. (v20)

_____ – When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. (v24)

Act 2

“ ¹³ After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,’ the angel said. ‘Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’

¹⁴ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵ and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: ‘I called my Son out of Egypt.’”

~ MATTHEW 2:13-15 (NLT)

A _____ of God starts with _____ of Obedience.

Act 3

“ ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰ ‘Get up!’ the angel said. ‘Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.’

²¹ So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²² But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³ So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: ‘He will be called a Nazarene.’”

~ MATTHEW 2:19-23 (NLT)

Obedience = _____ + _____ + _____ .

“ If you love me, obey my commandments.”

~ JOHN 14:15 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Obedience: Do it _____ . (Obey _____)

“ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.” ~ MATTHEW 1:24 (NLT)

“ I will hurry, without delay, to obey your commands.” ~ PSALM 119:60 (NLT)

Do it _____ . (Obey _____)

“ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother...”
~ MATTHEW 2:14a (NLT)

“ Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart.”

~ PSALM 119:33-34 (NLT)

Do it _____ .
(Obey _____)

“ So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother.”
~ MATTHEW 2:21 (NLT)

“ But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.”
~ PSALM 56:3 (NLT)

DISCUSSION Questions:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS
available on the APP |    

- 1 - What is the biggest impact in your life from your father?
- 2 - Why do you think Joseph is so often overlooked in the Christmas story?
- 3 - Re-read Matthew 1:18-25. How would you have felt and reacted if you were in Joseph's shoes?

- 4 - Re-read Matthew 2:13-15. How do small acts of obedience create momentum towards big changes? Can you think of an example of this from your life?
- 5 - The So What? talks about three areas of implementing obedience in your life. Which of these comes easiest for you? Which is hardest?
- 6 - What is God calling you to be obedient to him right now in your life? How are you responding?

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Impacting the World Around Us

Each year, our church encourages a collective effort to counter the commercialization of Christmas by generously supporting worthy causes for Jesus worldwide. This year's projects are Light 2 The World in Nepal, Odessa Theological Seminary in Ukraine, and Living Water International a project in Guatemala.

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