

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Overcoming the Fear of People

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
December 23, 2018



How do we overcome the fear of what people think about us?

Matthew 1:18 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.

Matthew 1:19 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.

• Pleasing God often means disappointing people.

Matthew 1:20-25 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.

• Fixating on what people think about you causes you to forget what God thinks of you.

• Fixating on what God thinks about you helps you forget what people think about you.

• If you are not ready to be criticized for your obedience to God, you're not ready to be used by God.

• There is always blessing on the other side of obedience!

Big Idea: Trust God to do extraordinary things through your ordinary acts of obedience.

Romans 8:1-5 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. ⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

So what ordinary act of obedience is God calling you towards today?

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters



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**Overcoming the Fear of People
#3 of 4— Dec. 23, 2018**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?

- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?

- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) How might you be obsessed by what people think of you? How does this impact the way you live?

4) Describe a time when you were criticized for your obedience to God. What did you learn from your experience?

5) Read Matthew 1:18-25. What challenges you and encourages you about this story? How does Joseph display trust in God in his response to this situation?

6) Think of some other Biblical examples of people who are willing to be criticized for their obedience to God? What do we learn about following Jesus from these examples?

7) Read Romans 8:1-5. How does the obedience of Jesus make it possible for us to walk in obedience to God? Look at v. 5. What does it mean to be “controlled by the Holy Spirit”? How does the Holy Spirit make obedience possible and a joy? Describe what this looks like in your life.

8) What ordinary act of obedience if God asking you to take today? Pray for one another as you share.



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