

Date: 12/10/17

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24 NASB

Message title: FEAR NOT part #2- Afraid of what people think about me.

Read text: Matthew 1:18-24 NASB

Recap: We have been learning how to FEAR NOT! As we look at the Christmas story, we see several encounters with an Angel. We see the same message...to **FEAR NOT!**

Last week we looked at the story where Mary is met with the Angel Gabriel. We were able to overcome the FEAR of what God is asking us to do!

Next week we will look at the story of the Shepard's, and learn to overcome the **FEAR** of what God thinks about us.

This week we will look at Joseph and learn to overcome the **FEAR** of what other think about us. Matthew Chapter 1.

Intro:

In the bible we see the words, **FEAR NOT** at least 365x. Why?

We are only born with two FEARS. 1) Loud noises 2) Falling. That tells me that ALL other fears are learned. **THEY CAN BE UNLEARNED!**

How many of you find yourself caring about what people think about you? **UNLEARNED!**

EX. Clothes wear, Car drive, Job you have, People hang out with, Like Selfie, (we become obsessed with what others think.)

Joseph—in a battle between easy/right. People want vs. God wants.

Explain. Joseph and Mary Engaged (Betrothed) —lasted a year— Binding. Only way out was death/divorce. If fiancé died—widow or widower.

They truly understood the value of the marriage covenant.

WE ALWAYS GIVE OUR BEST TO WHAT WE **VALUE** THE MOST.

- Value appearance—obsessed with what we eat/wear, live in gym.
- Value status—obsessed what I have. obsessed with things.
- Value education—obsessed with intellect. obsessed with knowing more. *Gnostics*. Cults are born on these grounds.
- Value social media: Followers, Facebook friends—obsess with posts.

If we value what people think, we live for them! If we value what God values then we live for God, and make REAL lasting IMPACT in our world!

Let's break all vain obsession until God is all that we desire! **Obsessed with GOD!**

Matt 1:18 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Imagine Joseph hearing this—wait a min—Pregnant? HS?
Don't give me that—saw way guy at the well checking you out.

Human perspective: She's a liar or she's crazy! Mary's situation would be punishable by death!

Joseph: What will people think of me? Marked for life.
Not going get hired, No father bless marriage, No one do an oil change on his Donkey.

Joseph is now ready to bail on this relationship w/Mary!

T-VS:19 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man (man of the law) and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Either he doesn't believe her—or he doesn't want to take the heat!

Noble thing—divorce her quietly—not going to shame her! Maybe I can start over—find someone else. Reputation.

Joseph is about to learn one of life's most important lessons!

PLEASING GOD OFTEN MEANS DISAPPOINTING PEOPLE.

T- VS:20 But when he had considered this, **behold**, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do **not be afraid** to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

For centuries the nation was waiting for a **Savior**—but what will this cost us? How will we do this? This doesn't make sense!

Should I do what people want or what God wants?

Becoming obsessed with what people think about you is the quickest way to **forget** what God thinks about you.

We are drawn towards pleasing people. We surrender our lives to what people think. **When we subject our lives to what people think then our lives will be like a roller coaster.**

Becoming obsessed with what God thinks about you is the quickest way to **forget** what people think about you.

- Living for an audience of ONE!
- Surrendered to Jesus' version of my life.
- Never looking back—moving towards the voice of God!

You can never please everyone, BUT YOU CAN PLEASE GOD!

The words that I live for are... “Well done my good and faithful servant! Enter into the JOY/REST of your Master!” (Matt 25:21)

When we tune into what God thinks about us, we tune out what others think about us.

When we know what God has called us to we can be confident that He will provide because His word never returns VOID!

Ex. I can relate to this! Planting this church has tested and tried our family in this way. VISION HIGHJACKERS!

HOW DO WE LIVE FOR GOD INSTEAD OF LIVING FOR PEOPLE?

1) IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO BE CRITICIZED FOR YOUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD, YOU'RE NOT READY TO BE USED BY GOD.

Can you imagine the grief and critical words that Joseph and Mary would have endured?

Scorned, gossiped about, PEOPLE mag. Jerusalem edition,
Joseph's not really father, Pregnant before the wedding??
Mary is a _____. Keith is a _____.

As you read and apply God's word you will begin to live a life that is culturally unpopular.

Ex. Taking a stand for X at school—not going to do drugs or get drunk, Saving yourself for marriage, Mission trip instead of beach
Not go to certain movies, Say no to get out of debt.
Leave career for ministry **(ME)**, Stay, serve & give radically!

The more you do for God, the pain you will experience. If you want to make a difference in this world, you will be met with pain and criticism!

You want no criticism? Say nothing, Do nothing, stand for nothing, Be nothing! If you do nothing then you will never make an IMPACT!!

Everything **significant** that you will do for God will be met with resistance! Why? You have an ENEMY!! He brings discouragement, doubt, and FEAR!!

Significant examples: raising kids in the LORD-**IMPACT**, Jesus centered marriages-**IMPACT**, Jesus centered Churches-**IMPACT**

If you saw the size of the blessing coming you would understand the magnitude of the battle you are fighting! #NOBATTLE/NOBLESSING

Nehemiah 4:20- OUR GOD WILL FIGHT FOR US!

I believe that through the words of God (Angel), Joseph and Mary were comforted, and reminded about what God had done for their nation.

Ex. Out of Egypt, Red sea, Out of Babylon, Rebuilding Temple.

Criticism will kill you if you don't remember what God has spoken to you...

2) EXTRAORDINARY ACTS OF GOD OFTEN START WITH ORDINARY ACTS OF OBEDIENCE.

The Savior of the world is born when two teenagers said yes to God. Almost everyone else would have said—don't do it!

They didn't know the details...How are we going to do this? How will we keep Him safe? How will we raise Him? He will be perfect so we wont need to discipline Him. Will He discipline us?

“25 Questions For Mary”From Max Lucado's Book, “God Came Near.”

1. Did you ever try to count the stars with him....and succeed?
2. Did he ever have to ask a question about Scripture?
3. What do you think he thought when he saw a prostitute offering to the highest bidder the body he made?

4. What did he and his cousin John talk about as kids?
5. When he saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did he act differently?
6. When he saw a rainbow, did he ever mention a flood?
7. What was it like watching him pray?

We are a people who want...Details Details Details! **You don't have to understand completely to obey immediately!**

Outcome is God's responsibility—**Obedience is mine!**

You have **no idea** what you are setting into motion when you obey what God puts on your heart.

Ex. Pastor Dave in planting this Church.

I love to put people into an environment to where there life can change forever!! Where a **GOD SEED** is planned.

Student ministry ——in 2018

Your obedience to God can create a chain reaction...

Invite someone to church, Share the gospel, Start serving in church, Start tithing, Go on the missions trip, Join a community group in 2018

Extraordinary acts of God often start w/ordinary acts of obedience.

Details...?? Mary will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." THAT'S IT!!

Above the opinions of people—Joseph **valued** the opinion of God.

Becoming obsessed with what people think about you is the...
Becoming obsessed with what God thinks about you is the...

Close: Guitar of piano only

VS 24: And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord **commanded him**, and took *Mary* as his wife, **25**but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

This is a destiny altering sentence...You did what the LORD commanded you to do!

FEAR NOT!! LET FAITH ARISE!!! Let's be concerned with what the Lord thinks and not people! Let's please GOD and NOT PEOPLE!

Pray:

1)FEAR OF PEOPLE PLEASING. PLEASE GOD, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!

2) FEAR THAT NEEDS TO BE UNLEARNED- GOD HELP!! CRY OUT!

SALVATION - THROUGH JESUS!

AMEN!!