



## FEAR NOT

### Part 2: FEAR OF WHAT OTHERS MIGHT THINK

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. - 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT*

*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[h] 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,[i] for he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:18-21 NLT*

#### **Obey the Lord, and don't be afraid of what others might think of you!**

##### **1. Obedience will be met with resistance.**

*"It is inevitable that critics will come. If you obey God there will be some man who does not understand. And the critics are not always foes – sometimes they are friends and family." - Dr. Scott Pauley*

*Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness." 2 "Is that so?" retorted Pharaoh. "And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go." - Exodus 5:1-2 NLT*

*"Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. - Matthew 24:9 NLT*

*If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. - Galatians 1:10 NLT*

#### **Pleasing God often means disappointing people.**

##### **2. Extraordinary acts of God start with ordinary acts of obedience.**

*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. - Mt 1:24-25 NLT*

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. - Psalm 119:105 NLT*

**You don't have to understand fully to obey immediately.**

*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.'" - Mt 1:22-23 NLT*

**You have no idea what God might do through one single act of obedience!**

### TALK IT OVER

- In what areas might the fear of what people think of you be holding you back?
- Describe a time when you were criticized for your obedience to God. What did you learn from your experience?
- What has God put on your heart? What ordinary act of obedience do you need to take?

**Suggested Reading Plan: [An Unexpected Christmas](#)**

### Announcements:

- **Sunday Service @ 10 AM.** Nursery for children up to age 4 on weeks 2,3 & 4; KidZone for ages 5-11.
  - Christmas in KidZone 12/10!
- **Girl's Ministry** for grades K-6 *on Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM!*
- **Finish Line Youth** for ages 12-12th grade *Wednesdays @ 7 PM!*
  - Wood'n Wheel outing 12/8!
- **Angel Tree** is a ministry to children of incarcerated parents. 11/26 - Take an "angel;" 12/10 - return wrapped gift; 12/17 - Deliver gifts. See Shirley Lane if you are interested in participating.
- **Christmas Play** 12/17! Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

**For more information, visit [newlife-saugerties.org](http://newlife-saugerties.org) and download our mobile app!**



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