

Summary

This sermon explores why God chose Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus, focusing on the challenges Joseph faced when he discovered Mary was pregnant before their marriage. Pastor Chris examines Joseph's character as a just man who chose to trust God despite not understanding the circumstances. Joseph was willing to sacrifice his reputation, pride, and honor to obey God's plan. The message emphasizes that God often uses ordinary, humble people for extraordinary purposes, and that when God calls us to do something that doesn't make sense, we must trust Him anyway. The sermon concludes with the encouragement that God can use anyone who is willing, even those who feel broken or inadequate.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You tonight with grateful hearts, thanking You for bringing us together to study Your Word. Lord, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us through the example of Joseph. Help us to be like him - willing to trust You even when we don't understand Your plan. Remove any barriers or distractions that would keep us from hearing Your voice clearly. We surrender our own thoughts and preconceptions, and ask that Your Holy Spirit would guide our discussion and reveal Your truth to each of us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could have any job or skill for just one day, what would it be and why?

Key Verses

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:39-40
- Isaiah 7:14
- Deuteronomy 22:23-24

Questions

- What character qualities do you see in Joseph that made him suitable for God's plan?
- How do you think Joseph felt when he first discovered Mary was pregnant? What would have been going through his mind?
- Joseph was willing to divorce Mary quietly rather than publicly shame her. What does this tell us about his character?

- Why do you think God chose to reveal His plan to Joseph through a dream rather than directly through Mary?
- The sermon mentions that Joseph never speaks a single word in the Christmas story, yet his actions speak volumes. What do his actions teach us about obedience to God?
- How can we apply Joseph's example of trusting God when circumstances don't make sense to our own lives?
- Pastor Chris said 'God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.' How have you seen this principle at work in your life or others?
- What does it mean to be willing to let God use 'what's left of me' when we feel broken or inadequate?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where God may be asking you to trust Him even though it doesn't make complete sense. Like Joseph, choose to obey God's leading in faith, even if you don't understand the full picture. Practice saying 'yes' to God's will, regardless of how it might affect your reputation, comfort, or plans.

Key Takeaways

- God often chooses ordinary, humble people for extraordinary purposes in His kingdom
- True obedience to God sometimes requires sacrificing our pride, reputation, and personal plans
- When God calls us to do something that doesn't make sense, we must trust Him anyway
- Actions speak louder than words - Joseph's silent obedience was more powerful than any speech
- God can use anyone who is willing, even those who feel broken or inadequate

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example of Joseph and his willingness to trust You completely. Help us to have that same kind of faith when we face situations that don't make sense to us. Give us the courage to say 'yes' to Your will, even when it costs us our pride or comfort. We pray that like Joseph, our actions would speak louder than our words, and that others would see Your love and faithfulness through our obedience. Use us, Lord, just as we are - with all our flaws and limitations. We surrender ourselves to Your perfect plan and trust that You will work all things together for good. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.