

Sermon Discussion Guide

12.3.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Luke 2:1-7 & Matthew 1:18-25

Key Scripture:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

- Luke 2:1-7

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- Matthew 1:18-25

Message Highlights:

- Joseph helps us see that Christmas is a person who has a name, and that changes everything.
- We continue to celebrate Christmas in hopes that we can continue to see God's life-changing work from different perspectives in our lives and the lives of others.
- The process of maturing requires me to acknowledge my perspective and own my lack of perspective.

CONVERSATION STARTER

- What is the greatest Christmas moment of your life? What made it great? How has it shaped your life?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- What is the overall purpose of this text?
- Why did God choose to communicate with Joseph through dreams? What does this method of divine communication reveal about God's interaction with humanity, especially in pivotal moments?
- How do these passages illustrate the interplay between God's plan and the choices made by individuals such as Joseph?
- How does Joseph's obedience to the angelic message reflect the trust he had in God's plan, especially considering the societal and personal challenges he faced?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

During Sunday's message, Tyler highlighted Joseph's significant choice in interpreting his circumstances. Joseph, committed to his convictions and guided by the commandments, embraced his calling. He chose to place his trust in Jesus and God's unfolding plan of redemption and restoration.

- How does listening to the Lord via his Word impact how you make life decisions? Do they play a part in your personal convictions?
- Do you believe your personal convictions are aligned with God's Word?
- In what ways do your personal convictions influence the choices you make in challenging circumstances?
- How do you tend to respond to difficult/challenging circumstances in your life?
- Do these ways reflect the life the Lord would have you lead?
- In what ways could you pursue intentional growth in how you respond to the circumstances of life?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- How does living for self first impact the community of Christ? How does living sacrificially impact the community of Christ?
- What can you do to demonstrate a Kingdom mindset to others?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- Tyler mentioned in his message that Joseph helps us see that Jesus changes everything. In what way does Joseph help our sights align with Jesus?
- Tyler acknowledged that humility plays a large role in how Joseph viewed his circumstances. What role does humility play in how you engage faith and the world around you?
- How does humility help others see the Jesus who changes everything?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- Because Jesus changes everything, what condition would the world be in without him?
How does Jesus bring hope?
- How does Sunday's message empower you to live a little differently this Christmas season?