

the **FOLLOWERS**

December 14, 2014
Celebration | 8:45 am
Pastor Dave Mitchell

Joseph: The Righteous Faith of a Jesus Follower Matthew 1:18-25

From Joseph, we learn...

God will test us to reveal our faith. Matthew 1:18-19

- It will challenge our relationships. I need patient endurance. Matthew 1:18

- It will reveal our obedience to scripture. I need biblical understanding. Matthew 1:19
Deuteronomy 2:23-24; 24:1-3

God will teach us to deepen our faith. Matthew 1:20-23

- I will learn more about God's power when I need it most. Matthew 1:20
"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' "

Isaiah 41:10, 13

- I will learn more about God's purposes to give me hope. Matthew 1:22-23
"'She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,' which translated means, 'GOD WITH US.'"

Therefore, we are still to trust and obey as a Jesus follower. Matthew 1:24-25

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

Digging Deeper:

Joseph may be the quietest man in the Bible, but his righteous life is the loudest display of faith and obedience to the voice of God. He is a model on what it means to trust and obey even when the circumstances of life seem to spiral down. Frankly, as a righteous man, it is only when God intervened directly that his life became more difficult. We need to learn from his life on how God works when our faith is tested in uncharted territory. If we could go back in time and be with Joseph when he discovered that the woman he was engaged to revealed she is pregnant, we could reassure him that he needs to just patiently trust the Lord; this all will make more sense in time. If you are struggling with some situation that is challenging you, the Lord would want to say to you as well, “Just trust Me, it will make more sense in time.”

LifeGroup Discussion:

Testing of our righteous faith is one way God works in His followers. Read these passages:

- James 1:2-4, 12
- Romans 5:3-5
- Hebrews 12:11-14

What do they teach you about tests from God?

Testing was involved in these lives.

- Jesus in Matthew 4; Hebrews 4:15
- Moses in Numbers 12:1-5
- Abraham in Hebrews 11:17-19
- Joseph Genesis 39

What do you learn about them from these tests?

As a righteous man, Joseph surely knew the Old Testament of the Bible. One of the great prophets was Isaiah. Imagine you are Joseph for a moment. How would you feel and what would you think when you discover that Isaiah 7:14 is being fulfilled through you and Mary?

What does that teach you about the importance of knowing God’s Word?

Also, how would Isaiah 41:10, 13 encourage Joseph?

How do those verses encourage you when you need the Lord?

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup for encouragement and accountability in your growth.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. **Use Calvary’s new discipleship study called ‘Following Jesus’ so you can grow in your faith and knowledge of God’s word to deepen your faith.** Following Jesus, with editions for both students and leaders, are available in Calvary’s Corner Bookstore. calvarylife.org/grow