

Disciples of Christmas: Joseph

Central idea: Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are people of courage.

Matthew 1:18-25

Look up.

Read the passage thoughtfully.

What did you like about the passage?

What did you find difficult about the passage?

What does this passage teach about people?

What does this passage teach about God?

Alternative questions to help you think through this passage:

- What did it mean for a couple to be “pledged” to each other (see verses 18 and 19 [notice the word “divorce”])?
- What reason does the angel give for Jesus’ birth (v. 21)? What do you think Joseph understood by this?
- When did Jesus become your “Immanuel”--God with *you*? In what way(s) are you experiencing God with you currently?
- Tim Keller says that Joseph demonstrates courage in three ways: by obeying God, by recognizing his own sinfulness, and by accepting disgrace as a result of obedience. Which of the three is most difficult for you?
- Have you had an experience where obeying God was uncomfortable or even frightening in some way? What happened?
- How can we experience the courage or confidence to follow the Savior in the hard issues of our day-to-day lives?

Look forward.

- In what specific area of your life do you need to ask God for the courage to follow him?