

THE FACE OF COURAGE - JOSEPH

From a sermon series by Scott Kircher

Ref: (Matthew 1:18-25, NLT)

[18] 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 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, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] 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.'" [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."

Key: OUR COURAGE COMES FROM GOD.

"So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37, NIV)

I. JOSEPH'S COURAGE ORIGINATED IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. (v. 20-23)

A. The evidence is in his response to the Scripture. (Isa. 7:14)

For us today, being in a "relationship" with God means having Jesus as your Lord and Savior and daily living out your relationship in the world around you. Without Jesus, you're just going through the motions.

"[1] As for you, don't you remember how you used to just exist? Corpses, dead in life, buried by transgressions, [2] wandering the course of this perverse world." (Ephesians 2:1-2a, VOICE)

Note: Without Jesus there is no real life. In fact, it says without Jesus is death.

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away." (Colossians 2:13)

II. JOSEPH'S SELFLESSNESS CAME FROM HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. (v. 19)

[4] But God, with the unfathomable richness of His love and mercy focused on us, [5] united us with the Anointed One and infused our lifeless souls with life—even though we were buried under mountains of sin—and saved us by His grace." (Ephesians 2:4-5, VOICE)

"Mercy triumphs over judgment". (James 2:13, NIV)

Courage **ALWAYS** requires selflessness. Without a selfless attitude, we naturally think about ourselves.

III. JOSEPH'S OBEDIENCE CAME FROM HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. (v. 24)

A. Joseph **TRUSTED** God. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."* (Prov. 3:5)

Courage is something that we can continue to grow in as long as we *obey* what God tells us to do *now*.

B. Joseph **BELIEVED** God. He had faith in God. He just took God at His Word and obeyed Him.

Key: Obedience is FAITH in ACTION.

"For we live by believing and not by seeing." (2 Cor. 5:7)

Fill In The Blanks: GOD; RELATIONSHIP; SELFLESSNESS; ALWAYS; OBEDIENCE; TRUSTED; BELIEVED; FAITH; ACTION