

MATTHEW 1:18-25 'ARE YOU LIKE JOSEPH?' - Advent series 'Enter His Story' #1
IBC Eindhoven, 1 December 2019

IMAGINE

- * You are Joseph
- * Crisis in your relationship
- * Poor attempt to solve the problem
- * Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream (again in Matthew 2:13 and 19)
- * Joseph responded in faith - verses 24 and 25

Question for reflection:

Read the passage and talk about it - try to imagine what your response would be

JOSEPH WAS A MAN OF GOD

- * Righteous man
- * Believed the message of the angel
 - * Believed in the supernatural God - able to do more than the eye can see and the mind can explain
 - * Well acquainted with the Scriptures:
 - * Colossians 3:16
 - * Jesus - saving people from their sins
 - * God with us - Immanuel

Question for reflection:

Are you a man/woman of God like Joseph? What do you need to grow?

MARK THE WAY THE STORY IS TOLD

1. Straight forward and factual with no attempt to explain or prove it's trustworthiness
 - Note that virgin birth is never used in Scripture to prove Jesus' divinity!
2. Story is directly related to the genealogy in verses 1-16
 - see especially reference to David: verse 1: Christ the son of David, verse 6: King David, verses 17 and 20
3. The name of Jesus = Joshua
 - Reminding of Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt and entering the promised land
4. Emphasis on prophecy fulfilled - verse 22
 - Immanuel - God with us - Isaiah 7:14 // 9:6

IMMANUEL

1. In the Bible: Joshua 1:9; Psalm 23, 139; Romans 8:31; Hebrews 13:5
 - Sometimes we try to justify our words and deeds with the claim: God is with us
 1. Dutch €2
 2. Nazi's in WWII Gott mit uns
 3. Roman battle cry - Nobiscum Deus
 4. Worship experience - especially in large gatherings with professional music and charismatic preaching - stirring our emotions - same wrong assumption as when reason is stirred - logic - we cannot manipulate God - beware of testing the LORD - Exodus 17:7
2. Jesus is God With Us!
 - He will save his people from their sins - Psalm 130:8
3. Matthew 28:20 'I am with you'
 - As we go we are 'Jesus-with-the-world'
 - Have faith that Holy Spirit is powerfully working through us - as we go - discipling the nations, teaching obedience

Question for reflection:

God is with us - share your beliefs and doubts...

We are Jesus with the world - share your beliefs and doubts...