

Friday

Read Matthew 2:19–23. From Joseph’s responsiveness in this passage, what do you learn about faith and obedience? How long does it typically take you to say “yes” when God asks you to take a risk? Why the delay? What “risky” step of obedience could God be asking you to take now?

Please pray for the Christmas concerts this weekend.

Saturday

Read Luke 2:8–20. This will be the text for the Christmas Candlelight services in one week. Why do you think God sent the angel to the lowly shepherds, of all people? What does this mean for you?

Thank God that He is concerned for the “least” of the people. Please pray for the Christmas concerts this weekend.



PART 3

When Things Don’t Make Sense

DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, **an angel of the Lord appeared** to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” *Matthew 1:19–21 NIV*

Joseph: 4 Traits of a Consistent God-Follower

1. _____
When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.” *Matthew 1:24 NIV*

I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. *Psalms 119:60 NIV*

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. *1 John 5:3 NIV*

2. _____
But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *Matthew 1:25 NIV*

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because **we don’t know why** things happen as they do, but **we don’t give up** and quit. *2 Corinthians 4:8 TLB*



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3. _____
 When they had gone, **an angel of the Lord appeared** to Joseph in a dream. **“Get up,”** he said, “take the child and his mother **and escape to Egypt**. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” **So he got up,** took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. *Matthew 2:13–15a NIV*

4. _____
 After Herod died, **an angel of the Lord appeared** in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **“Get up,** take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”
Matthew 2:19–20 NIV

Three kinds of risks:

1. _____ risk

2. _____ risk

3. _____ risk

How does this apply to me?

So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. *Matthew 7:24 TEV*

The bottom line:

I may not know _____ ,
but I can do the _____ .

NOTE: The angel’s message is never “ _____ ”;
it’s “ _____ ” — and let your trust in God
influence your actions!

Resources

*Much of today’s outline and messages adapted from the following:
 Tom Holladay, “5 Questions that Determine Your Destiny: Part 2”
 John MacArthur, “God With Us”*

Monday

Read Matthew 1:19–21. How do you think you would feel if you were in Joseph’s place?

Of all the lessons from Joseph’s example given in the message this weekend, what hit home most for you?

Thank God that He sent a Savior! Bring to Him the areas of life that you feel just don’t make sense.

Tuesday

Read Matthew 1:22–25. Apart from fulfilling prophecy, why was Jesus’ virgin birth necessary?

What do you learn about obedience from Joseph in these verses?

When it comes to obeying God, what have you been putting off?

Ask God to help you obey him immediately!

Wednesday

Read Matthew 2:1–12. Trace the journey of the Magi: How is it similar to the way people may come to Christ today? How is it similar to your own story? How is it different?

Think of God incarnate and, like the Magi, bow down and worship Him. Please also pray for the Christmas concert rehearsal tonight!

Thursday

Read Matthew 2:13–18. Sometimes when God asks us to move on and change something in our lives, even if it’s for our own good, we protest! Why is that? This is the second time an angel appears to Joseph. What do you learn from Joseph’s example in this passage about moving when God _____ says to move? How can you apply this to your life this week?

Ask God to help you obey with flexibility as Joseph did! Please pray for the Christmas concerts which start tonight!



She will give birth to a son,
 and you are to give him
 the name Jesus, because he will
 save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21