



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

---

## **Joseph's Dilemma**

**Mathew 1:18-25**

**Teacher: Bobby Sanders**

## Joseph's Dilemma

### Matthew 1:18-25

**Think of gifts that you don't appreciate until you need them.**

- A snow scraper
- A hide-a-key
- Handwarmers/gloves
- Jumper cables
- A compass
- A window breaker

**V-18.** In order to truly understand the situation through Joseph's eyes, you can't read "through the Holy Spirit" in this verse. **Verse 20 hasn't happened yet**, so Joseph does not yet see that this was the work of the Holy Spirit.

**V-19.** Tells us a little about the kind of person Joseph was.

**1st** - He was loving and kind.

- Even though Mary hurt him deeply (or so he thought) he loved her and looked for a way to deal gently with her.
- He did not want her to Go through public disgrace.
  - **Disgrace is the opposite of grace.**

**2nd** - He was faithful to the Law.

He intended to divorce her because of her sin.

**According to the Law, punishment for adultery would be death.**

- **Leviticus 20:10**
- **John 8:1-11** gives us a new testament illustration of Leviticus 20:10.

Have you ever fallen asleep out of sheer emotional exhaustion? Joseph went to sleep emotionally spent and with a great dilemma. Then Joseph met an angel of the Lord. In times like this, nothing will work except to meet with The Lord.

**Vs. 20-22. The Gift of God changed everything about Joseph's situation.**

An angel of the Lord:

- DO NOT BE AFRAID. She is not unfaithful.
- She will give birth to a Son ... (the promised Messiah)
- Name Him Jesus. *Jesus* is the Greek form of *Jeshua*, which means "*the Lord saves*".
- He will forgive the unfaithfulness of man.

## **Can you imagine how Joseph's life was different after he woke up?**

The gift of God not only changed everything about Joseph's situation but it can also change everything about your situation. Joseph came face to face with grace. A gift that we all need but rarely appreciate until we have one of those nights like Joseph had, where our pillow is soaked with our tears.

### **So lets end with a look at God's gift for you and me.**

Romans 6:23 - All sin cost death (no matter how big or how small).

Romans 3:10-12 - We are all sinful.

Romans 3:20-24 - Jesus payed for your sin (and you receive that gift by faith).

Ephesians 2:8-9 - Grace is the only way to pay (Grace is God's Gift).

Mathew 1:24 - when Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord commanded.

### **We also need to wake up. (And do what God commands of us)**

1John 1:9 - If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us.

### **Then we can enjoy Gods gift of grace.**

Hebrews 4:16 - We can approach God with confidence.

FEAR NOT!!!!