

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Christmas To-Do List

Obey – Matthew 1:18-25

Discussion Points

December 06, 2020

Read/Reflect

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Place yourself in Joseph's context. What do you think it was like for him to be in his situation? What do you think it was like for him the rest of his life?
2. On the theme of obedience, read Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 11:28-30, Matthew 28:18-20. How would you describe the big picture (the over-all message) in the gospel of Matthew?
3. Read Deuteronomy 22:23-26. Why was Mary's pregnancy such a big deal?

Explore

4. Do you think Joseph believed Mary's story of how she got pregnant? Why is the nativity story in Matthew so filled with scandal (e.g. Joseph's dilemma, see also Matthew 2 and Herod's actions)?
5. Doing the right thing (righteousness) was a key pillar in Joseph's time and culture? Is that still true today? How big a deal is obedience? How has the value of obedience changed with the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour?
6. Joseph was used to establishing his reputation by following the rules (Torah). How do you establish your reputation? In establishing your reputation what role does love for God and neighbour have?
7. How do you determine what is the right thing?

<input type="checkbox"/> Look for the rules	<input type="checkbox"/> Go with my gut
<input type="checkbox"/> Do my own thing	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow tradition
<input type="checkbox"/> See what others do	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Study the issue	
8. Has God ever nudged you towards an extreme kind of obedience that didn't seem to make sense? How would you find the courage and strength to obey?

Pray:

- ✚ For a listening spirit to hear the voice of God in your life as he guides and instructs you.
- ✚ For a humble faith to trust in Christ alone and follow him alone in seeking righteousness.

