

“Humility on Display”

- Introduction - Advent, Series: “Down to Earth”
 - Advent 2nd week= Peace
 - 1st week= Hope
 - Last week: Love on Display
 - God loved us and sent Jesus
 - 2 greatest commandments
 - This Advent season= go beyond “check writing”
 - This week: Humility on Display and looking at Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus

Tension: If we had been Joseph in the Christmas story would we have chosen the same path? Probably not and the reason= pride.

Matthew 1:18-25

- “Engaged” - different than today—already legally, contractually bound...wedding as time of feasting and celebration and actual joining of households, ‘for all intents and purposes, Mary and Joseph were already married but had not yet moved in with each other or consummated their union’, but big wrench in their plans...
- Mary pregnant—assumption that she had been unfaithful
- Joseph, being righteous [law following] would have viewed their union under new circumstances as ‘unfaithful union’ and looked to get out of it—could have publically disgraced—study Bible: “The law permitted execution after public trial for adultery [Deuteronomy 22:23-27], but Joseph moves towards legal disassociation”; imagine Joseph experiencing a myriad of emotions...after all
- Joseph was a flesh and blood person—not stain glass image, not just a character in a kids’ pageant—great amount of anger, hurt, distress, disappointment and heartbreak accompany this news...if spent time with someone whose spouse had been unfaithful, it’s not a calm, non-emotive kind of event
- **No precedence**
 - **Virgin birth had never happened before**
 - **Holy Spirit had never operated in this way before**
 - **It was foretold in the scripture, but was it really understood this way?**
 - **Not ‘logical’, how would you explain this, what would others think?**
- **Scrapped his plan submitted to Lord’s plan [‘Humility on Display’]**
 - I’m sure Joseph had a picture in his mind of how this was going to play out, be engaged, get married, have children, in that way in **THAT ORDER!**
 - **This rearranged everything and put him in a completely different spot**
 - **After someone did the math, 1 of 2 scenarios, either Mary and Joseph didn’t do things in the “correct order” or Mary would have been unfaithful to Joseph, either way not acceptable in their society and would have definitely been an issue**
 - **Joseph could have ‘cleared his name’, had her executed and never worried about it again**

Philippians 2:5-7

- **Jesus ultimate example of Humility**
- Joseph’s response to Divine Encounter: “Humility - putting God’s plans above his own”
- **Oswald Chambers:** “Be willing to go to the funeral of your own independence. God’s perfect will is for the natural to be changed into the spiritual through humility and obedience.”

- **Humility on Display - scrapped his plans for God's plan; emptied himself so that God could be all**
 - **Philippians 2:7, ultimate example of humility is Jesus**
 - **Peace that comes with surrender**

- **Pride opposite of humility**
 - **we must first deal with arguably the greatest of our sins, pride. C. S. Lewis, in his classic book Mere Christianity, hit the nail on the head when he wrote: The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit: and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility. . . . According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind."**
 - **Proverbs 16:18**
 - **Pride is the root of all sin**
 - **Must put ourselves 2nd**
 - **2 Greatest commandments**
 - **Mary put herself 2nd**
 - **Joseph put himself 2nd**
 - **2nd to a little baby, Jesus**
 - **Humility in order to know that your child would always "overshadow" you**

Closing