

Message: “LET IT BE — Part 2” by Pastor Jon Whisner, December 12, 2021

Description: Experiencing the Christmas season is always an exciting time of celebration and worship, family gatherings, great food, holiday music, twinkling lights — it’s the most wonderful time of the year! For the young, engaged Joseph, Jesus’s soon to be earthly father, the build up to the first Christmas wasn’t at all what he was expecting for his marriage, family and future. And yet, Joseph’s response to what God planned for him is a vital, life-altering lesson that can have a deep, positive influence on our own lives and families.

Key Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Takeaway / Application: When God changes your plans unexpectedly, what is to be your response? Just as with Mary (Luke 1:26-38), Joseph’s humility, surrender, and obedience to God’s direction for his life is an example that we must continually yield to and follow as we journey through this life.

- Matthew 1:18 shows us that Joseph was patiently waiting until after marriage to be intimate with Mary and consummate their marriage. What shock, confusion, and brokenness this young man must have experienced when he first discovered that Mary was pregnant. Read verse 19 and discuss the level of his compassion, integrity, and maturity as he strived to protect Mary instead of throwing her to the curb.
- Verse 20 says Joseph was thinking...and thinking...and thinking...about this whole mess. We could see him turning over and over in his mind until he was physically, emotionally and mentally exhausted and fell asleep. Someone said, “You aren’t what you think you are. But what you think, you are.” Read Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:2, and 2 Corinthians 10:5 and talk about how you handle your thought life. Also read Philippians 4:8-9 for the proper way to think biblically in daily life.
- Matthew 1:21-22 reveal God’s plan that’s been playing out behind the scenes for 700 years through the prophecy Isaiah gave (Isaiah 7:14). Share with your group a testimony of how the Lord has used pain, confusion, suffering, or misunderstanding to bring forth unexpected blessing and growth in your life.
- Pastor Jon broke down Immanuel “God With Us” into three parts to show the significance of Christ’s name. “God” = He is Unmatched. “With” = Jesus is Unstoppable. “Us” = Jesus is Unavoidable. Discuss these three elements of Jesus’s name, and share which one encourages and brings you most comfort.
- Verses 24-25 tell us that Joseph fully surrendered himself to God’s plan, continued to exercise self-control and patience to know Mary as his wife, and Christ was born and named Jesus. What an incredible example this young man is! Read 1 John 2:15-17 and talk about Joseph obeying God’s will and the eternal impact it has had ever since.