

FORECLOSURE – PART 2

“Joseph’s Story”

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BIG IDEA

Respond faithfully to God even when it threatens your respect!

Joseph’s Story (Matt 1:18-25)

Righteous mercy instead of Revenge (vs 18-19)

Ready obedient faith instead of Rebellion
(vs 20-23, 24-25)

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.” (Mark 8:35)

How are you responding?

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SHARPEN THE POINT

For further study of today’s message

ENTRY POINT: Joseph’s initial reaction to the news of Mary’s pregnancy was to quietly break their engagement, because he felt he would be dishonored and disrespected – his concern was with how the situation would be viewed by the world. But when the angel of the Lord appeared to him, his understanding shifted from how it *looked* to what it *meant* to follow in faithful obedience to God. Years later, Jesus himself spoke of this attitude to his disciples.

Begin your study by reading Mark 8:31-38.

Think of a time when your initial reaction to something was “fight or flight.” How, then, did you choose to follow God?

Humiliation is **done to** you...It is shame or degradation brought about by the action of yourself or others. *Humility* is something **you choose**. Joseph chose humility...he didn’t think less of himself; he thought of himself less than of God and of others. How have you handled what, from the world’s perspective, might have been a humiliation with the humility of an eternal perspective?

When have you put aside your own ambition or dreams in order to follow God?

What is God asking you to give up right now? What are you still holding on to? Do you have what it takes to shoulder your cross and follow Him?

*“If any of you wants to be my follower,”
He told them,
“you must put aside your selfish ambition,
shoulder your cross, and follow me.”
Mark 8:34b (NLT)*