

Series: Christmas

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23

Date: December 7, 2008

JOSEPH: FOLLOWING WHERE GOD LEADS!

Five principles Joseph teaches us about following God...

1. _____ GOD WHERE HE _____ LEADS!

Joseph's dilemma! - *Matthew 1:18*

Joseph's plan of action! - *Matthew 1:19*

God's plan of action! - *Matthew 1:20-21*

Joseph must choose!

Matthew 1:24 "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded him..."

2. _____ GOD'S _____ FOR OUR LIVES!

Joseph gives us three examples of how he trusted God...

Dream #1 - Joseph takes _____
Matthew 1:19

Dream #2 - Joseph takes _____
Matt 2:13-15

Dream #3 - Joseph takes _____
Matt 2:19-23

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Psalms 25:8-9 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Psalms 32:8, Isaiah 30:21, James 1:5

3. UNDERSTAND THAT WHERE GOD LEADS IS NOT ALWAYS _____ OR _____!

Remember: God is more concerned about our _____ than our _____.

Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

James 1:3-4 ...because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete...

4. KEEP OUR EYES FOCUSED ON _____ NOT ON THE _____!

Joseph followed God regardless of the _____!

Hebrews 12:2-3 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

2 Cor. 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

5. FOLLOWING GOD LEADS TO _____ AND _____!

There is a _____ to this story!!

Luke 2:39-40 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.