

Date: December 1, 2019

Sermon Series: Christmas

Sermon Title: Joseph the Just

Passage: Matthew 1:

By Pastor Eric Mann

Sermon uses ideas and information from the book, "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes" by Kenneth E. Bailey

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

"Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit." (v. 18)

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Righteousness and mercy are not at odds with each other. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross made sure of this for anyone who puts his or her faith in Him.

If we have been recipients of God's forgiveness and grace, then God asks us to forgive and show grace to others as well. It's not easy to do.

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Humanity's biggest need is not to be freed from the things in our lives that oppress us and enslave us just in this life. Our biggest need is to be freed from the SIN that has affected our relationship with a perfect and holy God.

"And he gave him the name Jesus."