

THE
LIVING ROOM

SESSIONS

with
(Lf) livingfaith
Church

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD: MATTHEW 1:18-2:12

Matthew 1:18-2:12

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

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. 19Because 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.

The Magi Visit the Messiah

1After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2and asked, "Where is the one who has been

born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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When Fear Drives Faithfulness

Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed so big and scary that only He would be able to see it through? How did that make you feel? When we are living in God's will, He will inevitably give us dreams and goals that seem impossible, but that doesn't mean we should shy away from them. In those moments, do what Joseph did: don't be afraid, and every day try to do the right thing, according to what God has asked of you. When that happens, little by little the impossible thing seems not so hard, as God begins to unfold His plan before you.

Reflection Points

1. Has God given me a big dream that scares me? Have I shared this with other people, my discipler, or those in life group?
2. What in your current walk with Christ seems scary, and how do you overcome it?
3. When God provides big scary opportunities, how do you think you will respond, and how do you wish you responded? If they are different, what can you do to prepare yourself to join God in His plan?

Prayer for Today:

God thank you for giving me things so big that I cannot accomplish them without your hands and power. Thank you for giving us role models like Joseph who are willing to push down fear and follow you, and I pray that today You give me the strength to do that myself.