

"MARRYING GOD'S WILL"

Matthew 1:18-24

I'm often asked if I have any advice for disciples: Give it all you've got! Our text: Marry the will of God.

I. DATING GOD'S WILL

A. Joseph – a teenage carpenter

1. He has plans for life: marriage/job/probably working on a place to live
 - a. He would have a small, insignificant life in a small, insignificant town: Be forgotten
2. His life was upended by God's will: God had planned for Mary to have a baby – Joseph to raise him
 - a. This is what God does: *He sometimes surprises us with His plans!*
 1. **Colossians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
 2. **Acts 9:6** So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"
3. The potential of calling: *Your life can become larger than anything you could plan!*
 - a. *Salvation of the world!* b. **Mark 1:17** "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
4. This would have unleashed reactions in Joseph:
 - a. **Selfishness:** *Why should I have trouble/mt plans be upset?*
 - b. **Fear:** *How can I do what God is calling me to do?*

B. So Joseph comes up with a plan

1. I want to help Mary – without being committed to her: **Matthew 1:19** *he planned to divorce her secretly.*
2. This is what many men do: *They date the will of God* They can get out if they want
 - a. They want to help – some b. They want to keep their options open: *In case it doesn't work out*
 1. *Lack of involvement.*
 2. *Focusing on other things*
3. As long as you fail to commit – you never enter into God's will

II. MARRYING GOD'S WILL

A. God's message to Joseph: **You have to marry the will of God! **V20** don't be afraid to make Mary your wife...**

1. Make it permanent/irreversible: *This is an attitude shift*
 - a. There is always cost to doing God's will: You can't do everything – and God's will: have everything...

Don't be afraid: Trust God with your life/future/your family!

2. This will always involve practical decisions:
 - a. He marries her/they leave hometown and move to Egypt
 - b. *Elisha: Killed the oxen and burnt the plow.*
 - c. **Mark 1:18** *So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.*
 - d. **Mark 1:20** *Jesus immediately called them, and they left their father in the boat with the hired workers*

and followed Jesus.

3. What is it that is keeping you from God's will – standing in the way? *An attitude? Relationship? Plan? A job?*
 - a. *Make up your mind! Pay the price. Marry God's will. Take right actions.*

III. BLESSING THE WORLD

A. Destiny is released by the simple word: **Yes**

1. What you ask of me: *The answer is yes.* What you tell me to do: *The answer is yes.*
 - a. The greatest ability in the world is availability
2. Marrying the will of God releases the help of God
 - a. **God provided protection: Matthew 2:13** An angel warns him – to save their lives
 - b. **God provided direction: Matthew 2:13** An angel directs him – where God wanted them to be
 - c. **God provided provision: Matthew 2:11** *they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

1. Met their financial needs for the trip/living in Egypt
 - a. God will take care of you – if you marry God's will!

B. Joseph released something far beyond his comprehension

1. His life helped bless the world! *Life is all about the impact you will make on other people*
2. His life became so much larger – by marrying God's will: Remembered – to this day!
 - a. *What will your choice be?*