

Deeper Life Notes

“The Gift Born Out of a Godly Marriage” Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor Dan Osborn—Sunday, December 11



Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

Get the wheels turning... “Low road” vs. “High road”

Talk about some specific differences between taking the “high road” versus the “low road” in the following circumstances:

When driving? At work? In your leisure time? In your marriage (or other close relationships)?

*Consider the following biblical examples of someone taking the “high road”

David in 1 Samuel 24 and 26

- What might motivated him to take the low road in this instance?
- What motivates you to consider taking the low road in your specific situation?
- Why is taking the high road better?

**David refused to take the “low road,” even if that meant getting justice and becoming king (which God had promised him anyway... see 1 Samuel 16:1-13). And - as one who took the high road and left the details up to God - David eventually became king! 2 Samuel 2:1-7, 5:1-5).*

Read

Matthew 1:18-25

Identify as many ways as you can of how Joseph took the high road in this situation...

Pastor Dan finds three ways, in specific, that Joseph takes the high road:

1. *Honoring the rules of engagement (v.18)*
2. *Honoring God and Mary in conflict (vv.18b-20a)*
3. *Honoring God in his character (vv.19-25)*

How is Joseph’s example instructive with respect to how we handle our own low road/high road opportunities?

Joseph’s relationship with Mary is a marriage commitment (without the physical benefits)...

Joseph’s actions challenge us to treasure God by choosing to honor Him in our marriage / other relationships.

Discuss / Apply

1. *Honoring the rules of engagement (v.18)*

a) By honoring parents / others affected by the relationship:

Joseph & Mary honor their parents’ decision by committing exclusively to one another (in an “arranged marriage”). Marriage isn’t “arranged” in Western society these days days... but our marriage and other relationships still affect others!

How can you honor others (such as parents) in your marriage /other relationships?

b) By honoring yourself and your spouse through sexual purity:

Applies to before & during a marriage relationship!

*Discuss the following Scriptures:

Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Ephesians 5:3

What are contemporary (societal) and personal challenges to these godly ways?

2. Honoring God and our spouse / others in conflict (vv.18b-20a)

a) Expect conflict!... *Is a healthy marriage is two good forgivers?!?*

b) Know your options... *Are there more than one or two ways to respond to this?!?*

c) Choose God's way!

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." - Matthew 5:9

The Gospel of Peace Mirrored Through Peacemaking

The gospel is the good news that the King has come, as promised in the Holy Scriptures, in the person and loving work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Prince of Peace, Savior of the world, Lord of all;

who died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected from the dead, sending forth his Spirit and Word to give us life through a new heart and spirit, forgiving all who will believe in him and crediting to us his perfect righteousness, reconciling and uniting us to the Father and adopting us as dearly loved children, and giving to us the supreme gift of knowing and enjoying God in Christ forever.

Having given us peace with God, Jesus enables us to mirror his peace to others by:

inspiring us to love, worship, glorify, obey, and serve God with all our hearts, uniting us in spirit and purpose with other believers in his body, the Church, empowering us to lovingly restore and forgive others, even our enemies, enabling us to put off sinful ways and be renewed in his likeness, and making us ambassadors of his life-giving, reconciling power.

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3. Honoring God in our character (vv.19-25)

a) Pursuit of righteousness... *A choice... and a gift! Philippians 2:12-13*

How did God's word and Spirit impact Joseph's decision?!?

How does His Word and Spirit impact our decisions?!?

b) Grace-filled living... *The Golden Rule? Matthew 7:12*

c) Faithfulness... *Galatians 5:22-23, a fruit of the Spirit!*

"True biblical faith is confident obedience to God's word in spite of circumstances and consequences" - Warren Wiersbe

Pray

Pray not only that our relationships would honor God but that He would use them to bear lasting fruit for Christ's kingdom! ... *What might some of this fruit look like in your area of influence?!?*