

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

Have you ever been asked the question “are you obeying God's will in your life?” How would you answer that question? Would that question be difficult to answer? Why or why not?

**Digging In****Read Matthew 1:18-25**

Pastor Jeff asked the question, “are you obeying God's will in your life?” Through this Christmas passage, we are encouraged and challenged to look how Joseph took the words from the Lord to have perspective of God's will in his life.

**Question 1: Read Matthew 1:18-19. When it seems unfair.** Joseph was betrothed to Mary – which meant their parents had arranged them to be married. But Joseph finds out that Mary is pregnant and wants to quietly have her divorced to not disgrace her. It would have been extremely humiliating for both him and her culturally. But even though Joseph had been “apparently” wronged, he still wanted to do what was right.

Have you ever been challenged to do the “right” thing even when you've been wronged? How does our heart justify not doing the right thing when we've been wronged? How does this show us to live by God's will even when we think we've been sinned against?

**Read Matthew 5:38-42.**

How does God's word teach us about following God's will even in the midst of being wronged?

**Question 2: Read Matthew 1:20-23. When it seems unclear.** Joseph was given instruction from the angel to still take Mary as his wife, even though he could not see the full eternal picture that God was painting. It was social and cultural lunacy to marry a pregnant woman, let alone a woman who was carrying someone else's child! But Joseph still obeyed God even when he did not fully understand God's plan.

Why do we often question whether to obey God's will in our lives when we can't see the whole picture? How has that happened in your life? How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life when you have obeyed His will?

**Question 3: Read Matthew 2:13-15. When it seems unsafe.** Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt because Herod is after Jesus' life. Joseph heard God in a dream to leave their small town and to go to a foreign, unknown country in the middle of the night.

Does God's will in your life at times seem like an irrational, illogical, or unsafe decision to follow? Describe a time in your life where following God's will for your life seemed countercultural. Has that ever happened?

Analyze this statement, "The safest place in all the world is in the will of God."

Do you agree? Why or why not?

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?