

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SERMON NOTES
DECEMBER 15, 2019**

**"GOD'S CHRISTMAS LIST: Obedience"
Matthew 1:18-25**

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

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

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

In this third week of Advent we are continuing our look at God's Christmas List. Through Isaiah we learned about hope; through Hebrews we learned about faith, this morning we will learn from Joseph about yet another trait that God desires in us: obedience. As we look at the story of Joseph as Matthew recounts it, we are left with three strong insights into the character of Joseph:

1. First, though he must have been hurt by what he thought Mary had done, he was not hurtful in his response to her.

a. _____

b. _____

[Romans 12:19]

2. Second, Joseph was able to believe an incredible story.

a. Modern skeptics reject the Bible because they claim it is

b. Joseph had a deeply personal stake in what had happened to Mary... and he was being asked to believe that she was...

c. Joseph understood that accepting that story and taking Mary as his wife...

3. Third, and finally, He was willing to obey whatever God wanted him to do.

a. Joseph awakened from his sleep and "_____."

b. He "_____."
[Matthew 12:47; Matthew 13:55-56].

c. Joseph _____

In the end, there is relatively little that we know about Joseph but this we do know –

Such obedience is dear to the heart of God – it is something He deeply longs for in the life of His people. [1 Samuel 15:22, Psalm 103:17f, Mathew 28:19f]

And why does God so desire our obedience? John explains it with simple eloquence in 1 John 5:3a, "*This is love for God:*

_____."

"This morning let's commit ourselves to honor God with our lives and to give Him what He deeply desires from each one of us: obedience, which says quite clearly, 'I love You!'"