



Shelby Christian Church

CHRISTMAS - HOLY MOMENTS: WHEN IT IS HARD TO OBEY

MATTHEW 1:18-25, JOSHUA 1:6-9 * 11/30/2025

**Have you ever faced an unexpected event that completely changed your plans?
How did you handle the shock or sudden shift?**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 1:18-19

How does the text describe Joseph's initial dilemma when he discovered Mary's pregnancy? What were his options?

The text calls Joseph a "righteous man." How does his plan to divorce Mary "quietly" demonstrate this righteousness?

What does this reveal about Joseph's character, his love for Mary, and his understanding of Jewish law

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 1:20-21

How did the angel's message in the dream change Joseph's perspective and plans?

What did the angel tell Joseph to do?

How did the angel's message help Joseph overcome his fear and confusion?

The angel reveals the child's name will be Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sins." What does this tell us about the purpose of Jesus's birth?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 1:22-23

The angel also says the child will be called "Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.'" How does this prophetic name speak to God's presence even in difficult circumstances? What does this mean to you personally?

In what moments of your life have you especially felt God's presence?

Joseph obeyed "immediately." What is one area where you feel called to take a step of obedient faith?

What can Joseph's example teach us about surrendering our plans to God?

How can we live each day with an awareness that God is with us?

After receiving the angel's message, Joseph immediately obeys God. He takes Mary as his wife,

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOSHUA 1:6-9

What stands out to you most in this passage—God's commands, God's promises, or Joshua's role? Why?

Why do you think God repeats the command “Be strong and courageous” three times? What might Joshua have been feeling at this moment?

What does it mean to be “strong and courageous” in your own walk with God today? Can you think of a situation where you needed this kind of courage?

In verse 7, God tells Joshua not to turn from the law “to the right or the left.” What does this look like practically for believers today? How do we stay focused on obedience?

God promises Joshua success as he obeys His Word. How should we understand “success” from a biblical perspective? How is it different from worldly success?

APPLICATION

Joseph likely experienced fear, confusion, and uncertainty. How can we remain merciful people as Joseph was towards Mary? What helps you trust God when life doesn’t make sense?

How does Joseph’s obedience to God’s instruction after the dream show his commitment? When our lives are turned upside down, what are some ways we can find comfort that, in the end, our perseverance will be worth it?

What does this passage teach us about trusting God when circumstances are confusing or don’t make sense to us?

In what ways can we apply the principle of listening to God over the opinions of others in our own lives?

PRAYER