

Choices that Create Joy for Your Life, Pt. 2

Review

In our last lesson, we learned that

Fear and Anxiety can Destroy our Joy

When we are anxious and afraid we should trust God and accept His plan for our lives.

Today's Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1:18 *The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother, Mary had been **engaged** to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. (Christian Standard Bible)*

What was it that could have destroyed Joseph's Joy?

Bitterness or Resentment Resulting From Hurt

Where does resentment or bitterness come from?

Hurts, Abuses (emotional, verbal, and sexual), Rejection, Offenses and Betrayal.

Matthew 1:19 *So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. (Christian Standard Bible)*

When Joseph was hurt he chose to be **graceful**, not **resentful**.

Marriage Scenario

Sometimes one spouse is dealing with fear and the other is dealing with anger. Remember Joseph did not allow the hurt to develop into resentment.

Kingdom Scenario

Ahithophel was hurt but he allowed it to develop into resentment and bitterness. As a result, he did not offer grace. 2 Samuel 16:23, 20-22

Which one will you be; Joseph or Ahithophel?

When you choose to offer grace, **God will help you with your pain.**

Matthew 1:20-25

20 *But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet. 23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated as "God is with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her. 25 but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus. (CSB)*

Because Joseph didn't get bitter and resentful God blessed him. You can be bitter or blessed chose.

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