

Courage

- What is courage?
 - Strength and perseverance in the face of danger, fear, pain, difficulty, intimidation
- When is courage needed?
- Where do you need courage today?
- Joseph: A case study of courage

When Faith takes Courage

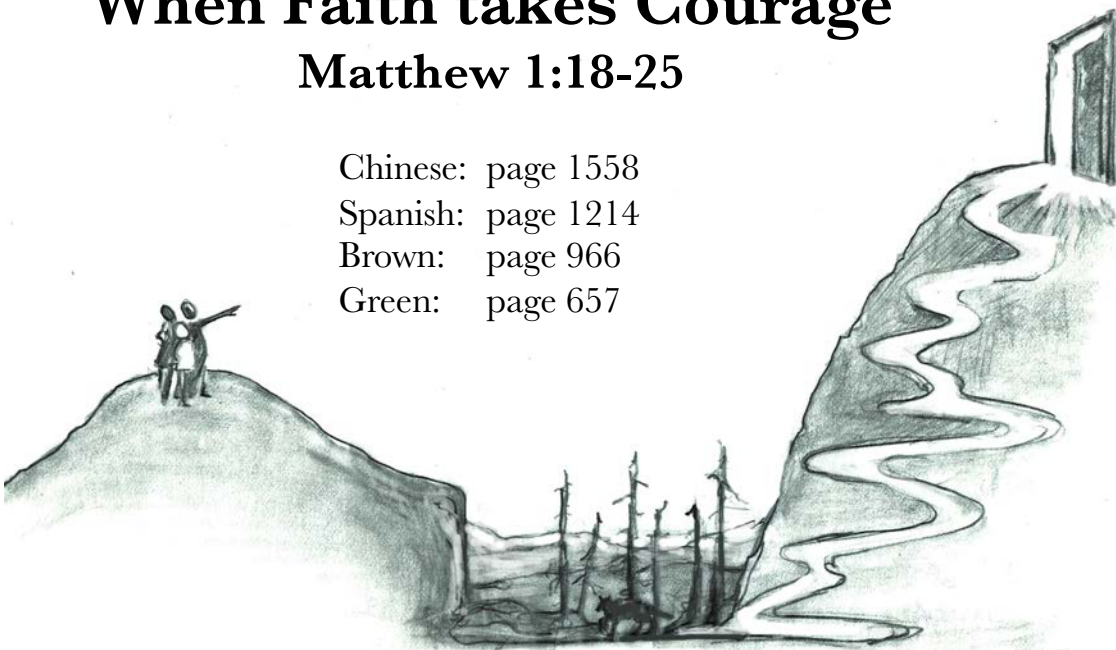
Matthew 1:18-25

Chinese: page 1558

Spanish: page 1214

Brown: page 966

Green: page 657



The Genealogy of Jesus ... has some mystery

Matthew 1:1-17

- “This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”
- “Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab [a prostitute in a country they conquered]”
- “Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth [a widow from a people cursed by God]”
- “David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife”
- “and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.”

Matthew 1:18-25

18: Joseph’s crisis: Mary’s pre-marital pregnancy

19: • “Betrothal”: legally binding engagement,

20-21: probably around 1 year long

22-23: • Mary was traveling for 3 months, then returned, so

24-25: maybe when she was 4 months pregnant

- We know what Joseph seems not to know: pregnancy is a miracle by God

Chinese: page 1558

Spanish: page 1214

Brown: page 966

Green: page 657

Matthew 1:18-25

18: Joseph's crisis: Mary's pre-marital pregnancy

19: Joseph's just and merciful solution: a quiet divorce

20-21: • Law prohibited sex before marriage,

22-23: with severe punishment

24-25: • Shame was contagious

- Public divorce would protect Joseph's honor while increasing Mary's shame

- Joseph picked a middle road out of mercy

- Compassion is a key quality for the righteous

Matthew 1:18-25

18: Joseph's crisis: Mary's pre-marital pregnancy

19: Joseph's just and merciful solution: a quiet divorce

20-21: The angel interrupts and presents God's better plan

22-23: • God let Joseph wrestle with the right decision

24-25: • This is where we live ... it takes courage!

- Joseph's plan was just & merciful, but "horizontal"

- Angel: "Do not be afraid" (have courage)

- Going against God's will? Or of the public disgrace?

- Mary's pregnancy was from God ("vertical")

- Joseph was to take Mary's public shame as his own, in order to receive God's honor

Matthew 1:18-25

18: Joseph's crisis: Mary's pre-marital pregnancy

19: Joseph's just and merciful solution: a quiet divorce

20-21: The angel interrupts and presents God's better plan

22-23: ...which was according to God's ancient plan

24-25: • Prophets' words were God's speech

- We again know officially what Joseph was figuring out:

- This personal crisis is God's plan to accomplish the profound miracle of the incarnation: God in human form

Matthew 1:18-25

18: Joseph's crisis: Mary's pre-marital pregnancy

19: Joseph's just and merciful solution: a quiet divorce

20-21: The angel interrupts and presents God's better plan

22-23: ...which was according to God's ancient plan

24-25: Joseph obeys, and takes the public shame

(and godly honor) on himself

- Joseph had God's word without "proof"
 - He experienced the authority of God's presence & prophecy
- Joseph's obedience makes Jesus the Son of David
- Which was God's sovereign plan

The Big Idea

**Our salvation
through the Lord Jesus Christ/Immanuel
originated **God with us**
in God**

through the courageous act of faith of a man

**Faith in God
requires courage** → **in the face of
danger, fear,
difficulty, ...**
**that will bring wonderful blessing
in God's time and in God's way**

How does your faith in Jesus require courage today?

Danger, fear, and difficulty are the norm in Christianity

- Loving when love is hard
- Perseverance in work, service, faithfulness
- Pursuit of holiness and godliness
- A future with risk, uncertainty & difficulty
- ...



**Where does that
courage come from?**

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him** he endured the **cross**, scorning its **shame**, and **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:2-3

scorning = treating as unimportant or insignificant

Application

- **Fix your eyes of Jesus**
 - He chose to suffer and endure and be shamed for us and with us
 - He now has received perfect honor from the Father
 - He has given us power by the Holy Spirit to obey
 - He has promised to be with us always

Application

- **Fix your eyes of Jesus**
- **Fix your eyes on the joy set before us**
 - Jesus Christ has promised a future of joy beyond the troubles we face today or tomorrow
 - Jesus Christ is preparing a feast and a home for His people
 - Our **temporary, light troubles** will be replaced with an **eternal weight of glory** *2 Corinthians 4:17*
 - This hope is found only in Jesus Christ

Application

- **Fix your eyes of Jesus**
- **Fix your eyes on the joy set before us**
- **Strengthen and support each other**
 - “Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ‘Make level paths for your feet,’ so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.” (plural) *Hebrews 12:12-13*
 - Life Groups, true friendships, mentoring, meals, ...

The Big Idea

**Our salvation
through the Lord Jesus Christ/Immanuel
originated **God with us**
in God
through the courageous act of faith of a man**

**Faith in God
requires courage** → **in the face of
danger, fear
& difficulty**
**that will bring wonderful blessing
in God's time and in God's way**