



When God Interrupts Your Pride

Matthew 1:18-25

OPEN

What is your first reaction when YOUR plans get changed by someone else?

Have you ever had an unwelcomed interruption in life that really turn out to be a blessings? Share.

DISCUSS

Read the story of Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25.

- How have you been taught this passage in previous years?
- Because Joseph was a righteous man (faithful to follow the law of Israel), what was he obligated to do with Mary? Consider these verses for context: Deut 22:23-24
- Where do you see grace in the midst of Joseph's situation?

Joseph was within his rights to do many things, yet he chooses a path of sacrifice (Mat 1:19). In the weekend sermon it was said:

"When we hear the word righteous we often think of someone riding their high horse, or asserting their rights, or adhering to the letter of the law. But in the life of Joseph, the word "righteous" gets different content. There it describes someone who could take rightful action to lord it over someone, who could have played the part of a judging God, but instead chose to sacrifice his pride and position in order to help someone nobody feels is worthy of such service."

Consider Philippians 2:5-8 and how Jesus' righteousness modeled a pathway of grace?



The challenge of sacrifice and service is that it interrupts our pride (our position, sense of importance, the value of our time...).

- What is interrupting your pride these days?
- How are you being called to exercise the righteousness of grace instead of judgment?

What might God do if you allowed him to interrupt your pride, your position, your program and dedicated yourself a whole lot more to being a servant in all the spheres in which you live?

YOUR NEXT STEP...

- Read and reflect on the Bible passages contained in this study.
- How could you specifically respond as a grace-filled servant to a situation or person interrupting your life?
- Is there an interruption you would ask God to bring to you in this season of life?