



FEAR NOT: Obedience Honors

December 11, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Nina Schmidgall

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24, 2:13, 2:19, 2:22

Sermon Overview:

Both Joseph and Mary had a lot to fear upon hearing the news of Mary's pregnancy. For Joseph, the situation appeared to be a worst-case scenario. It's not unusual to face fear, feel fear, and be influenced by fear. But what matters most is what you do with it. The Lord says, "Fear not, for I am with you." We must learn to confront our fears with faith.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What have you been waiting on God to do?
2. How has this waiting affected you?
3. Why must you trade fear of the unknown for faith in the unseen?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. Imagine what type of rejection that Mary had to be prepared to endure because of her pregnancy. What must it have been like for her? What has the Lord asked you to walk through that meant you would be rejected and judged by those close to you? By your co-workers? By your culture?
2. From Joseph's perspective, how was he faced with a worst-case scenario? What types of scenarios have you faced that seemed overwhelming to the point that you didn't know how you would make it through?

3. We often fear the loss of the things that we treasure the most. In the face of these fears, God asks us to respond with faithful obedience. What did it look like for Mary and Joseph to respond by faithful obedience? What has it looked like for you to respond by faithful obedience in the face of overwhelming circumstances?

Dig Deeper:

1. Part of our calling is to stand in the gap for the vulnerable in our society. In the situation with Mary and Joseph, Mary was very vulnerable. Who are the vulnerable in our society today? What does it look like to stand in the gap for them? What if those vulnerable people are not walking with the Lord? What does it mean to stand in the gap and pour out grace and compassion to them?
2. God is able to speak to us in our dreams. Have you ever been prompted to action through a God-inspired dream? Were you afraid to obey? What caused you to take the step of faith and obey? How did your obedience open the way for God's plans to be fulfilled

Practical Application:

- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Schedule a Sozo* Inner Healing session for 2023; email sozo@national.cc. *Sozo means Saved, Healed, Delivered and appears several times in the Bible. For more info about our Sozo ministry, visit: national.cc/care-prayer/prayer