

**Fear Not**  
***“Fear of What People Think About Me”***  
**Matthew 1:18-25**  
**December 9, 2018 / Pastor Shawn**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.  
Matthew 1:18-19

**Pleasing God often means disappointing People.**

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.’ <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).  
Matthew 1:20-23

- **Becoming obsessed with what people think about you is the quickest way to forget what God thinks about you.**
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**Living for God instead of People**

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from his sleep, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.  
Matthew 1:24-25

**(a) Extraordinary acts of God often start with ordinary acts of obedience .**

**(b) If you’re not ready to be criticized for your obedience to God, you are not ready to be used by God.**



FEAR NOT

1. What was your personal take-away from Sunday’s message? What stood out to you and why?
2. How might you be obsessed with what people think of you?
3. Describe a time when you were criticized for your obedience to God. What did you learn from that experience?
4. Describe a time when you took a step of ordinary obedience as a result of something God put on your heart. What extraordinary act of God resulted from your ordinary obedience?
5. In what ways has God shown you what He thinks of you? Taking your Bible and beginning in Matthew and working through Revelation, compile a list of “Who I Am in Jesus” statements.
6. What steps do you need to take to stop living for people and instead start living fully for God?
7. What might God be nudging you to do to love or serve or give someone this Christmas? How might this act of obedience point someone to Jesus?

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**(a) Extraordinary acts of God often start with \_\_\_\_\_ acts of \_\_\_\_\_.**

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