



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Matthew 1:18-25: My Dreams, His Plans

I. Matthew 1

A. vv.1-17 – Jesus’ royal House of David pedigree

B. Recall Matthew’s gospel is to the Jews – Only NT book written in Hebrew - Five examples of fulfilling Scripture in Chapters 1 and 2

II. vv.18-19

A. Joseph and Mary are betrothed - Three steps to Jewish marriage:

1. Fathers arrange the union
2. Betrothal – as if married
3. Ceremony – Groom shows up one day for the bride

- She’s been gone 3 months and comes home pregnant

B. v.19 – being a “just” man – *diakios* – adjective

1. 1st John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and **just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. James 5:13-16

3. He resolved/decided to quietly divorce

III. vv.20-21

A. v.20 – Joseph “thought on” – Greek is *enthymeomai* - Compound: “of” and “wrath/fierceness”

B. Two other times in Scripture:

1. Jesus tells scribes He knows the evil things they are thinking in their hearts
2. Peter trying to determine what the “heavenly sheet” vision meant

C. Dreams in the NT - Dreams – not daytime visions

1. Matthew 27:19 – Pilate’s wife – don’t condemn Jesus - Matthew “book-ends” with two dreams
2. Matthew 2:12 – Magi warned to NOT go back to Herod
3. Matthew 2:13 – Joseph to go to Egypt
4. Acts 16:6-10
5. Acts 18:5-11

D. Is there a pattern?

- Disturbing situation occurs
- I do MY “fierce thinking” about what I am going to do
- As I “sleep on it” the Lord sends me a vision/message
- Next day I obey
- Why not ask Him first?

IV. vv.22-23

- A. First of Matthew’s 5 fulfillments
- B. Liberal theologians argue “*almah*” and “virgin”
- C. Matthew’s theme for his gospel: Jesus is right here with us
- D. Another “book-end”: Great Commission “Lo I am with you always”

V. vv.24-25 - More of Joseph’s righteousness and obeying God

- A. Matthew uses the Jewish idiom of Joseph not “knowing” Mary UNTIL she had Jesus – Greek *heos*
- B. Saying “until” implies Joseph and Mary had sex and had children

James 5:7 *Be patient, therefore, brothers, **until** the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, **until** it receives the early and the late rains.*

Lesson Thought: If “God is with us” then why do I still want to lay out my own plans?

Questions? Comments? Thoughts? nick@nickwalters.org

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