

Can you believe that we are already in week 6 of Memorize with Me? Our verses this week will conclude our "Birth" section and we will be moving into the "Commission" section next week. Time flies doesn't it! I pray that you are doing well with the memorizing but perhaps you may read this and think, "How can we be in week 6, I am still memorizing the verses for week 3!" It is easy to let a busy week slip by and get behind. Please don't be discouraged and do not give up! Our verses this week will speak to us about following through. Let's take a look.

Matthew 1:24-25

Verse 24 begins with Joseph waking up from a dream where the Spirit of God spoke to him. I don't know if you have ever had a dream where the Holy Spirit spoke to you or not but if so... when you wake up you feel compelled to follow through with His promptings.

That is exactly what we see Joseph doing. Before he went to sleep (verse 19) we find him thinking about divorcing Mary and now on the other side of the dream, we find Joseph responding differently, because the Holy Spirit had spoken to him and presented Truth to him.

I believe our key phrase in verses 24-25 is ***"he did what the angel of the Lord commanded him."*** What did he do? We find Joseph did three things in verses 24-25 that were very difficult:

1. He took Mary home as his wife
2. He didn't have union with her until after she gave birth
3. He gave the baby the name ***"Jesus"***

These 3 things were challenging! Yes Joseph took Mary home as his wife, but he must have had moments of doubt, he must have had times where people questioned him, he must have mourned what his original plans were. It must have been difficult to take a wife and have no union with her. And giving the baby the name Jesus was probably even more of a struggle. In that culture, names were very important, they had meaning.

In verse 21 we memorized that the Holy Spirit told him to ***"name the baby Jesus because He will save his people from their sins."*** It would be difficult to have the boldness to name your child ***"Jesus"***, especially if you are in a marriage that began with speculations of impurity anyway. When Joseph named the baby Jesus he was making a statement about who this child was. That kind of statement took a heavy dose of faith.

All of these actions on Joseph's part speak something loud and clear to me. What is it?

JOSEPH FOLLOWED THROUGH IN FAITH.

We often honor Mary and well we should but today I believe we can learn something from Joseph. When the Holy Spirit spoke, he responded in faith even amidst the struggle, even when it grew difficult or doubts arose. What about you and me? The Holy Spirit speaks to us all the time. He may speak through God's Word, through a prompting in your heart that is in line with God's Word, through a teacher or speaker or song. He may speak to you in a dream. How do you respond?

I believe the Holy Spirit led you to memorize these passages of scripture and you followed His promptings and signed up. This has been a challenging season to start a memorization project, right in the middle of Christmas and the New Year. But you followed through, you stepped out in faith and took the challenge. May I encourage you to continue to follow through. Don't give up. It may be a challenge, you may be behind, you may feel overwhelmed, you may not understand how

in the world you can finish this project. We have a great example to follow in Joseph, so press on and follow through!