

Overcomers: Overcoming Fear

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 6, 2020

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 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. 21 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." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

We overcome fear by...

1. REALIZING THAT FEAR IS NOT FROM GOD

Matthew 1:20

...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...

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...

We overcome fear by...

2. REPLACING FEAR WITH FAITH

Matthew 1:24

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

We overcome fear by...

3. FOCUSING ON ETERNAL THINGS

Matthew 1:21-23

21 "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." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: (Isa 7:14) 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

Philippians 3:13-14

13... one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

John 14:27 (advent word this week is PEACE)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.