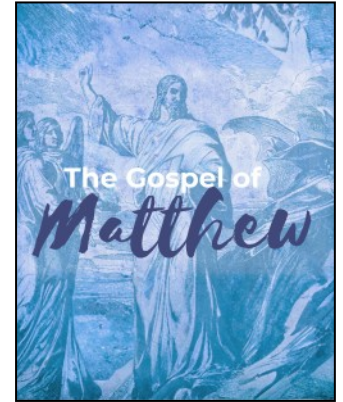


Pastor James Dale

May 3, 2026

Matthew



A Just Man

Matthew 1:19

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

A Just Man -

1. Does What Is Right

Matthew 1:18-19, Micah 6:8, James 1:19, Romans 12

2. Listens When God Leads

Matthew 1:20-24, Proverbs 3:5-6

3. Loves What God Entrusts to Him

Matthew 1:24-25, Ephesians 5:25, Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 2:13-15

4. Trusts God With the Outcome

2 Corinthians 4:17, Hebrews 11:13

Resources:

D.A. Carson – Matthew (Expositor's Bible Commentary)

blueletterbible.org

The Character of Joseph - John MacArthur

Small Group Discussion Guide
The Gospel According to Matthew
Matthew 1:18–25

Getting Started

1. Have you ever had a moment where your plans were suddenly changed? What happened, and how did you respond?

2. When you hear the word *trust*, what comes to mind? Is it something that comes easily to you, or something you must grow in?

Digging Deeper (Read Matthew 1:18–25)

3. What stands out to you most in this passage? What questions or reactions come to mind?

4. Verse 19 says Joseph was “a just man.” What do you think that means? Look up Micah 6:8, Psalm 1:1–3, and Luke 1:6. How do these help define what a righteous or “just” person looks like?

5. What do you notice about Joseph’s initial response to Mary’s situation? What does that reveal about both his character and his internal struggle?

6. Joseph is essential to this moment, yet he is not the center of the story and later fades from view. What does that teach us about faithfulness in roles that are important but not always visible?

7. Joseph is faced with a situation he doesn't fully understand. Read Proverbs 3:5–6. What does it look like to trust God when the path is unclear?

8. The angel tells Joseph not to fear. Look up Isaiah 41:10. Why is fear such a common barrier to obedience? Where do you see that in your own life?

9. Joseph obeys immediately, even though it likely cost him his reputation and comfort. Read Luke 9:23. What does Joseph's obedience teach us about the cost of following God?

10. The name *Immanuel* means "God with us." Look up Isaiah 7:14 and John 1:14. If God is truly with us, how should that change the way we respond to fear, uncertainty, or when God calls us to obey?

11. Joseph receives something from God, a calling, a responsibility, a role, and faithfully carries it. Where do you see God entrusting something to you right now, relationships, responsibilities, opportunities?

Making It Real

12. Because Jesus is *Immanuel*, *God with us*, how does His presence reshape the way you view a *current situation*, fears, or uncertainties? As a group, talk about what it looks like to trust Him more fully this week. Pray for each other.