

TIS THE SEASON

Part 2: For Living Big

Intro/Theme: We live in a visible "out there" culture that glorifies the bold, strong and in your face. But there is a way to live big without shouting about it - it's living Big God's way.

JOSEPH - A BIG BIG MAN (*Matthew 1:18-25 NIV*)

- ❖ **He had to deal with major anger and betrayal**
 - ◆ Mary was found pregnant, never indicated she confessed
 - ◆ Must have been a temptation to get back or get even
 - ◆ He was unwilling to make himself look good and Mary bad
- ❖ **He had to overcome fear**
 - ◆ For men the fear of looking foolish or weak is very real
 - ◆ Not a great way to establish a family and reputation in the community
- ❖ **His situation required some serious faith**
 - ◆ Believing the angel was not automatic
 - ◆ He woke up and acted on what the angel said - did not drag his feet, talk about it, etc...
- ❖ **Joseph put his own desires on hold**
 - ◆ Had to wait to consummate the marriage
 - ◆ His first born would not carry his name

LIVING BIG TODAY

- ❖ **Big enough to do the right thing**
 - ◆ Not necessarily the easy thing
 - ◆ Not the thing that feels right or is the most emotionally satisfying
 - ◆ Don't expose, shame, put down or get even (*1 Peter 3:9 NIV*)
- ❖ **Live bigger than your doubts and fears**
 - ◆ So many fears today with a name for everyone of them
 - ◆ So many willing to muddy up the waters of your soul with doubts
 - ◆ Believe God and His word and let's live bigger than the fears that have bound us (*Luke 1:45 NIV*)
- ❖ **Live big enough to put God and others first**
 - ◆ The media idea of the emotionally stunted, intellectually weak Christian is wrong
 - ◆ You can do things that benefit others simply because you are a strong Christian
 - ◆ Living big is really living like Jesus (*Mark 10:45 NIV*)