

RE-GIFTING

Part 2: Passing On Your Love

Text: (*Matthew 1:18-25 NIV*)

WHAT IS LOVE?

❖ A very broad application

- ◆ Romantic love - every kiss begins with Kay
- ◆ Anything we have an affinity for
- ◆ Most often equated with feelings and emotions

❖ God's perspective

- ◆ A choice, not an emotion
- ◆ A gift that benefits the recipient (*John 3:16 NKJ*)

JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE

❖ He was unwilling to get back at Mary

- ◆ Some of the most painful times are when people have been disloyal
- ◆ The pressure to save face at Mary's expense must have been strong
- ◆ He took the high road (the greater way) before he had an explanation from God

❖ He obeyed God's instructions regarding Mary

- ◆ Certainly did not make rational sense
- ◆ Could have reasoned away the dream itself
- ◆ He may have recalled the scriptures regarding the Virgin birth

❖ Joseph set aside his own desires and did what was best for Mary

- ◆ A great example of self control
- ◆ A totally unselfish action

REGIFTING YOUR LOVE (*1 John 4:11 NKJ*)

❖ Love does not have to win

- ◆ The desire to save face to not be disrespected is strong
- ◆ Love does not state - "well they did this to me"

❖ Love does not lean on reasoning and logic

- ◆ God's directive is love so that's all we need - a choice
- ◆ This especially pertains to forgiveness

❖ Love does what is best for the other person

- ◆ Will often require an override of feelings and emotions
- ◆ Is the greatest example of Christlikeness (*Ephesians 5:2 NKJ*)
- ◆ Love has a spiritual aroma