

**Sermon Notes – September 27, 2015**  
**“What Will They Think of Me Now?”**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**  
**Pastor Bill Hoffman**

**Joseph was clearly not inclined to believe that Jesus’ conception was supernatural.**

- Why is this an important aspect of Jesus’ identity?
- Short of calling on an angel to reveal it in a dream, what might you say to people who are skeptical about Jesus’ supernatural conception to try to convince them?

**Joseph's reputation was that he was a tsadik: a person who sought to be righteous according to the law of God.**

- Especially in a small town where everyone knew each other well, how might his marrying Mary effect his reputation?
- What might be some consequences of this?

**In what ways might seeking to love God and love others by following Jesus hurt a person’s reputation:**

- In the secular world?
- Among other Christians?
- What are some examples you have seen or experienced?

**In his dream, the angel gives Joseph specific direction and also a different perspective on his situation and how it aligns with Scripture.**

- What are some other ways in which God does this for followers of Jesus today?

**Joseph “did what the angel of the Lord commanded him” which set the course for a very different life than if he divorced Mary.**

- What did this new direction involve for Joseph?
- How was it more difficult than the life he might have had if he had followed through with his plan of a discreet divorce?
- How as it more rewarding?