

# New Covenant- the First Body of Christ -Part 7

by Zac Poonen

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*The new covenant offers an exciting life of following God's leading and living in righteousness.*

**Duration:** 4:24

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 11:13, Proverbs 16:9, Isaiah 30:21, Matthew 1:19, Matthew 2:12-13, Matthew 2:19-20, Romans 8:14

**Topics:** "Righteous Living", "Godly Guidance"

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## Description

This sermon focuses on the theme of righteousness as seen in the story of Joseph in Matthew chapters 1 and 2. It emphasizes the importance of not hastily judging or speaking evil about others, highlighting Joseph's righteous decision to protect Mary's reputation despite his initial misunderstanding. The sermon also discusses the supernatural guidance of God in Joseph's life and the wise men's journey, emphasizing the need for believers to listen and obey God's leading for the protection and building of the body of Christ.

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## Transcript

And then I want to say one more thing that we see in Matthew chapter 1 and chapter 2. You know some of the things at the beginning of the new covenant that's what we've been looking at. Notice the number of ways in which supernaturally God guides. When Joseph was concerned about Mary being pregnant and didn't know the real reason.

And it says here, Joseph was a righteous man. Verse 19. And he did not want to disgrace her.

Verse 19. Righteousness is the main message of the new covenant. And I want you to notice one thing that the first mention of righteousness in the pages of the New Testament is about a man who would not expose the sin of another person which he thought was sin.

If you are a righteous man or a woman, you will not disgrace others. You may know something evil about somebody, you let it bury inside you. You won't even tell your wife or husband about it.

Why should they know? Look at the amount of gossiping, backbiting going on. No wonder such Christians will never see the new covenant in a hundred years. Joseph was a righteous man.

You know very often the people we criticize, we may discover later that we were wrong. Have you seen that sometimes? I've noticed that. I made mistakes like that in my younger days where I thought something was wrong with somebody.

Afterwards I discovered it was not true. Don't be so quick to speak evil about somebody. Imagine if Joseph had gone around Nazareth and said, this woman, this Mary, I thought she was holy but she is pregnant.

I don't know which Roman soldier she went after. And then he discovers later on it was not a Roman soldier, it was the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine what remorse would have come into him if he had spread that story to one person because he would have gone all around Nazareth.

How could he have stopped it then? Some of the stories we spread don't stop with the one person we tell them. Follow Joseph's example. How they were led by God.

Take her. And how the wise men were led to bring these gifts. Later on the wise men were told by God, don't go this way, go back another way.

In Matthew chapter 2 verse 12. Go another way. Supernatural leading.

They obeyed. And then the angel of the Lord appears in verse 13 to Joseph and said, take the child and go. Again supernatural leading.

And he goes off to Egypt. And then after some time he appears to him in Egypt and says, okay, now you can come back. And that also we read in verse 19 and 20 of chapter 2. So you see this supernatural leading of God for the protection of the body of Christ.

There, go this way, go that way. That's a very simple principle. In the body of Christ, to build the body of Christ we need to listen to the way God is leading us.

Lead not to your own understanding. That's what we see. All those supernatural examples, that's how the body of Christ was protected.

And if we have ears to listen, we'll be able to hear what God is saying to us. It's such an exciting life. I'm amazed that more Christians are not interested in living this life.

They live such a boring Christian life and there's this exciting new covenant life offered to all of us. I hope all of you will enter in and not just understand it in your heads. Let's pray.

We thank you Lord that the mysteries of God are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. We thank you. Thank you Heavenly Father.

Help us to walk this new covenant life, to build the body of Christ on earth in these days and to prepare ourselves for your second coming as those people were ready for your first coming. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

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