

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP

EMPTY THE JAR

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

Though he's often overlooked in the Christmas narratives, Joseph plays an important role in Jesus' birth. His example of generosity and sacrifice remind us that following God will require us to "empty the jar" to follow wherever He may lead.

Read Matthew 2:13-23. Notice that Joseph doesn't speak in any of the Christmas narratives. He only obeys. What does this teach us about how we should respond when we feel God prompting us? Is this normally your first response? What keeps you from responding to God the way Joseph did?

What sacrifices was Joseph willing to make in order to be a part of what God was doing? How does God call us to make those same sacrifices in our day? What does it look like for you to "empty the jar" in this way?

Through the Magi's gifts, God gave Mary and Joseph what they needed to move to Egypt. In what ways have you seen God provide for your needs in advance? How has He provided you with opportunities to be generous?

What causes (or which people) do you find it easy to "empty the jar" for? What makes it so easy for you to be generous in these situations? How can you bring this same kind of attitude into other giving opportunities?

Do you see yourself more as a conduit or as a stockpiler? Are you more prone to hoard up God's blessings or to let them flow through you? What evidence do you see of this in your life? Why do you think you live this way?

Generosity means sacrificing something you love for something you love more. What do your sacrifices reveal about what you truly love? Based on that, are there any priorities you need to reorder? How does the Christmas/New Year season give you an opportunity to do that?