

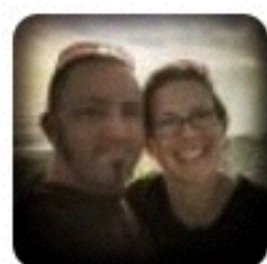
REFUGEE

A CHRISTMAS SERIES

THE SOCIAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

BRAD GRAY





Michael Tawes Gray @tawesgray · 21h



I don't know how I feel about
[@WalkingTheText](#) not being a "real" Gray.....
[#disturbingrevelation](#)



1





Matthew 1

pg. 966



Betrothal / Engagement

Arranged by parents with couple's consent
(Girl 12-14; Guy; 16-18)

Initiated with a marriage contract - *ketubah*
(Bride Price and Dowry)

Legally binding as marriage
(Dissolved only by Death or Divorce)

No intercourse or unchaperoned alone time

Length was approximately 1 year



Wedding Celebration

Procession from groom's family to bride's family
Procession would return to groom's family's house
7-day wedding celebration
1st night: couple would consummate the marriage
“Officially” married at this point
Cloth would be shown to prove bride's virginity



Jewish and Roman law required divorce
for adultery.



If Joseph Divorced her Publicly ...

Conducted by a Judge/Elder at the village gate

He'd get to keep her dowry

Bride's family would return the bride price

Publicly absolve himself of any wrongdoing

Avenge his shame (the loss of his honor)

She and her family would incur significant shame



“The penalty for adultery under Old Testament law was death by stoning, and this penalty applied to infidelity during betrothal as well (Deut. 22:23-24). In New Testament times, Joseph would have merely been required to divorce Mary and expose her to shame; the death penalty was rarely if ever executed for this offense.”

Craig S. Keener, *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, 48.



“Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law (lit. “righteous”), and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

Matthew 1:19



If Joseph Divorced her Privately ...

Required the presence of only 2-3 witnesses

Give her a certificate of divorce

He'd lose the dowry

He'd potentially not recoup the bride price

He'd lose any opportunity to regain his honor

But he'd mitigate her and her family's shame



If Joseph Chooses to Marry Her ...

Be acknowledging that he impregnated her

Or he'd be condoning her act of adultery

Be taking on her shame

Create suspicion for not waiting for the 1 year

Wouldn't be able to prove Mary's virginity, and exonerate themselves from community's shame



Joseph and Mary's obedience to God led them
to becoming social outcasts/refugees.



Obedience to God can often lead to a
social refugee reality.



What is our response when we find ourselves in a
social refugee reality?



“Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law (lit. “righteous”), and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

Matthew 1:19



Joseph was righteous because he was both faithful to God and compassionate to Mary, despite his feelings of shame and betrayal.



HOLIDAYS CAN BE
STRESSFUL. DON'T BE TOO
HARD ON EACH OTHER,
OKAY?

BG

@bobgoff, Instagram, 11/25/15