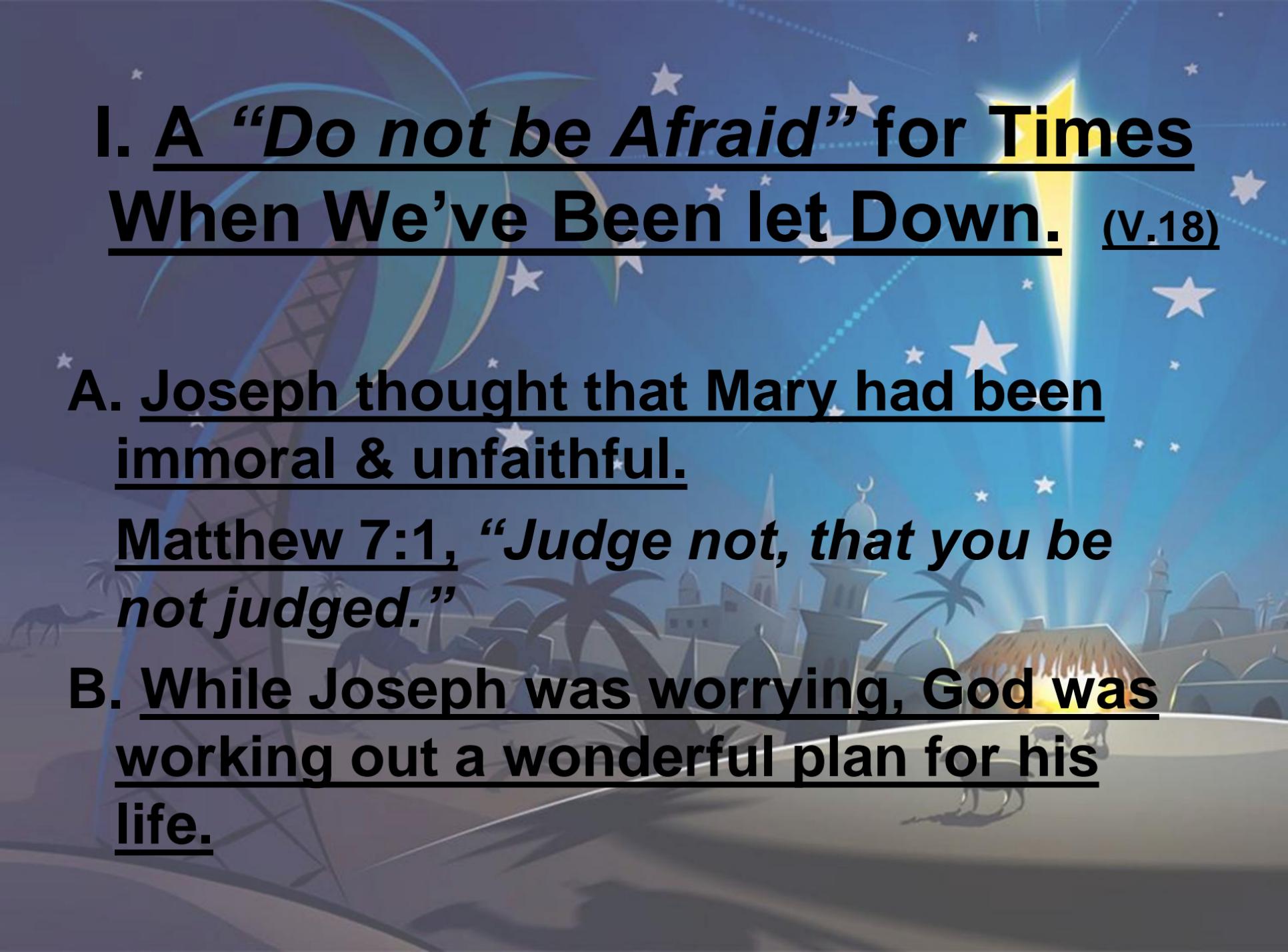




“Do Not Be Afraid,” Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25



**I. A “Do not be Afraid” for Times
When We’ve Been let Down. (V.18)**

**A. Joseph thought that Mary had been
immoral & unfaithful.**

**Matthew 7:1, “Judge not, that you be
not judged.”**

**B. While Joseph was worrying, God was
working out a wonderful plan for his
life.**

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, a white donkey and a white sheep stand on a sandy path. In the background, a small stable with a thatched roof is illuminated from within. Behind the stable, a larger building with domes and minarets is visible. The sky is a deep blue, filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. A prominent, bright yellow star with a long, glowing tail of light rays points towards the top right corner of the image.

**C. Mary had not been immoral;
she was the prophesied virgin
with child.**

- Isa. 7:14, *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

D. What Joseph had thought was sinful was sacred; he didn't have all the facts.

E. We must stop fretting about the failures of others;

God is in control!

Psalm 37:1-4

¹Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

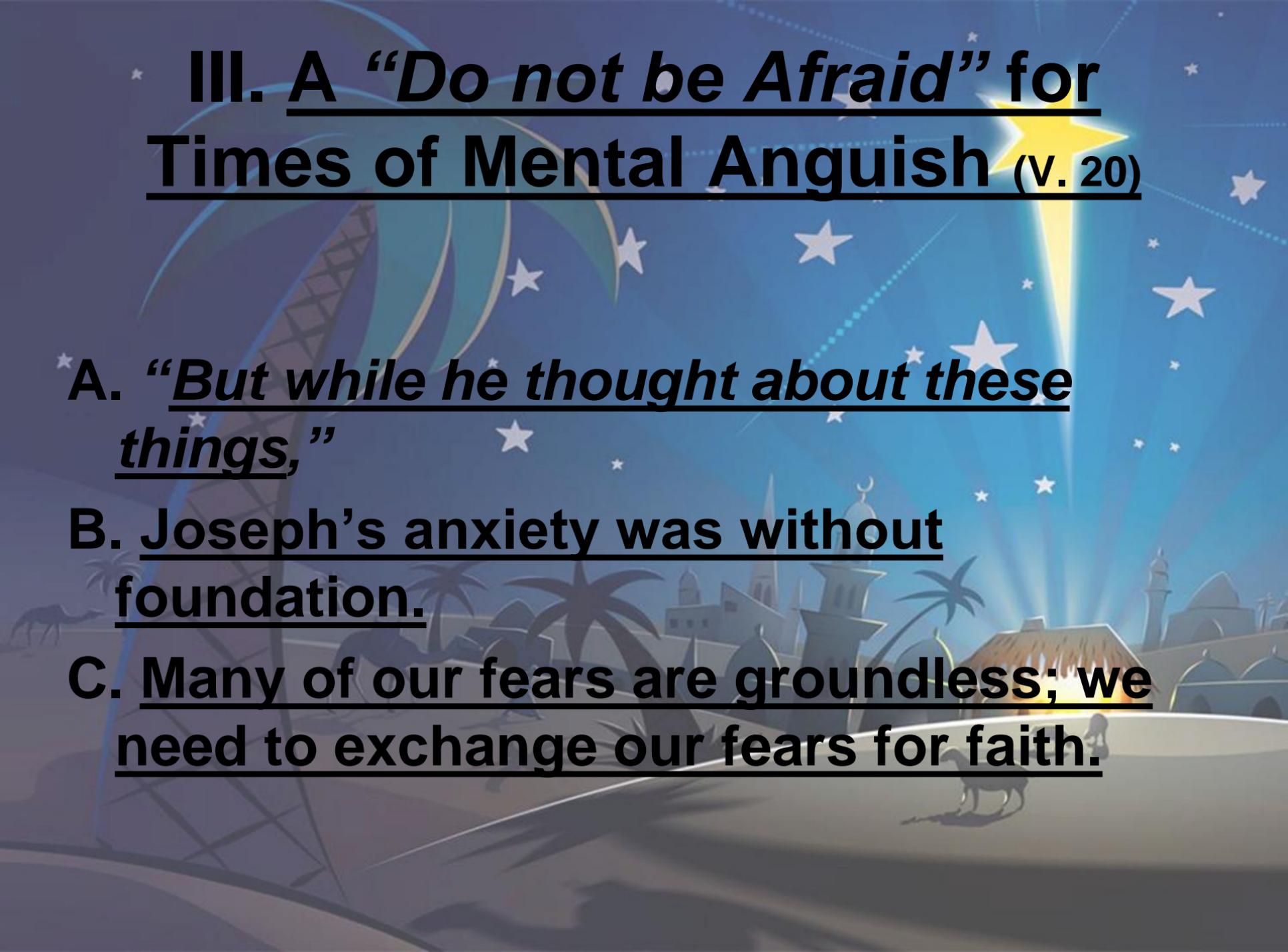
²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.

³Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

II. A “Do not be Afraid” for Times When We Worry About Public Opinion (v. 19)

- ★ A. Joseph was not willing to make Mary a public example.**
- B. Joseph was allowing public opinion to shape his future.**
 - Proverbs 29:25, *The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.***
- C. Those that are in the center of God’s will do not need to fear public reaction.**
- D. Are you afraid to surrender to Christ for fear of what others will say or do?**



★ **III. A “Do not be Afraid” for
Times of Mental Anguish (v. 20)**

★ **A. “But while he thought about these
things,”**

**B. Joseph’s anxiety was without
foundation.**

**C. Many of our fears are groundless; we
need to exchange our fears for faith.**

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- (V.20) *Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife...”*
“That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 11:28

“Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

**Come to Jesus today,
and do not be afraid!**

