

## JOSEPH – THE FORGOTTEN FATHER

--MATTHEW 1:18-25--

### INTRODUCTION:

As we come into this advent season, as we begin to consider again the incarnation of Jesus Christ, I want to spend the next three weeks looking at some of the people that were caught up in the events leading up to and surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. For this first week I want to look at Joseph, the forgotten father in the events of the incarnation.

Joseph was looking to the future with his betrothed bride Mary. He certainly had dreams and plans as he anticipated the upcoming marriage to his bride. It was in the midst of this dreaming of the future that his life, his future and his faith was tested.

### I. BAD NEWS FOR JOSEPH (Matthew 1:18-20a)

- a. We do not know when or how Joseph found out that his bride-to-be was \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Imagine Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_ when Mary told him that she was pregnant, they had little contact during that year, and they certainly had not been intimate.
- c. When we read this account in Matthew, we have the benefit of \_\_\_\_\_ years of hindsight.
- d. Put yourself in \_\_\_\_\_ place.
- e. According to Matthew 1:20 Joseph did some serious \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. For Joseph there were really only two courses of \_\_\_\_\_ that he could take.
- g. Matthew tells us that Joseph was a \_\_\_\_\_ man, and he tells us this before Joseph was told by the angel that child Mary carried was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- h. There is much for which to \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph.

### II. GOOD NEWS FROM GOD (Matthew 1:20b-23)

- a. Thanks to the Scriptures we know the reason Joseph did not go through with the \_\_\_\_\_, God intervened and sent a heavenly messenger to visit Joseph.

- b. Look in verse 20 at how Joseph is addressed by the angel. The angel refers to Joseph as the “\_\_\_\_\_ of David.” (Romans 1:3)
- c. This angel that came to Joseph in his dream assured him that the \_\_\_\_\_ in Mary's womb was not the result of sin but was conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit.

### III. THE KING IS COMING (Matthew 1:23)

- a. This event in the Christmas narrative reminds us of the faithfulness of God to His \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. This is why Matthew opens so boldly with the claim that this Son of a carpenter in Nazareth was no ordinary man, but was and is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. In the angel's words to Joseph, Matthew sets forth Jesus as the rightful king who comes to \_\_\_\_\_ His people.
- d. Through his dream Joseph was reminded that this was no ordinary \_\_\_\_\_ and that his role would not be that of an ordinary \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. A FAITHFUL SON OF DAVID (Matthew 1:24-25)

- a. The angel who appeared to Joseph in his dream \_\_\_\_\_ to Joseph in confirming the news of Mary's pregnancy by the Holy Spirit.
- b. From this we learn two things about the man who would be the earthly father of Jesus: Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ who he was, and second, he was \_\_\_\_\_ to Scripture.
- c. Joseph's response to what he was told by the angel is what we would \_\_\_\_\_ from a faithful son of David committed to God's Word.
- d. By taking Mary as his wife, Joseph would be giving up his \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Joseph not only lost his reputation, but he also lost his \_\_\_\_\_ and safety.

### CONCLUSION:

This is the legacy left by Joseph. He was an ordinary man willing to be used by an extraordinary God. He displayed a righteous

character in a difficult situation. Joseph obeyed God's command immediately. He was willing to suffer reputational harm and loss of comfort for the sake of God and others. He was the spiritual leader in his family. Finally, Joseph is a picture of Christ's shame and reproach on our behalf. Joseph is a man barely mentioned in Scripture, forgotten mostly in church history, but remembered by God as a faithful servant. This can also be our legacy if we are willing, like Joseph, to say yes to God.