

COURAGE TO HELP

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | DECEMBER 8, 2024

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” (Matthew 1:18-25)

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INTRODUCTION

- Joseph engaged to Mary
- Joseph's occupation was a carpenter
- Joseph was an honorable man
 - * he decided to divorce Mary privately
 - * he did not want to make Mary a public spectacle
 - * he did not want to shame her
- Mary was already 3 months pregnant

1. THE Devoted OF JOSEPH (v. 18-19a)

A. He Had a Sincere piety (v. 19a)

WAS TRUE IN HIS DEVOTION TO GOD - loved God first

WAS HONORABLE IN HIS DEVOTION TO MARY - loved Mary

WAS TEACHABLE WHEN HE DISCOVERED TRUTH - open to truth

“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.”
(Proverbs 29:11)

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”
(James 1:19-20)

B. He Had a Sincere concern (v. 19)

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8)

- Joseph protects Mary & Jesus
 - * completes marriage contract
 - * after birth, they stay in Bethlehem

- Joseph thought about future decision
- But God intervened in Joseph's life

2. THE Discipline OF JOSEPH (v. 20-25)

A. He Showed patience by Waiting (v. 20, 25)

HE WAS NOT HASTY IN DECISIONS

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;" (James 1:2)

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." (James 1:5-7)

HE WAS PATIENTLY DISCIPLINED

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

B. He Showed tenacity by Working (v. 24)

"Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?" (Matthew 13:55) **Jesus questioned**

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1 Timothy 5:8)

3. THE Dedication OF JOSEPH (v. 20-25)

A. He consented to God's Will (v. 20b-23) **he obeyed**

THE LORD'S REVELATION

"But the angel said unto him, **Fear not, Zacharias:** for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John." (Luke 1:13)

"And the angel said unto her, **Fear not, Mary:** for thou hast found favour with God." (Luke 1:30)

"And the angel said unto them, **Fear not:** for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:10)

THE LORD'S PROPHECY

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Quote: "Without delay, demur, or reservation, he obeyed. What holy awe filled his heart as he welcomed the favoured virgin to his home, to be respectfully and affectionately screened from all evil." — C.H. Spurgeon

God spoke to Joseph in a dream
- Mt 1:20 Mary as wife - Mt 2:19 return back
- Mt 2:13 flee to Egypt - Mt 2:22 warned by God

- B. He ~~comit~~ ^{committed} to Mary (v. 24b) ^{he protected Mary's life}
 Quote: "Commitment in the face of conflict creates character."
 C. He communed With Jesus (v. 25a)

WAITING IS HONORED

view in Nazareth

"Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?" (Matthew 13:55-56)

WAITING PREPARES THE HEART

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." (Lamentations 3:25-26)

Quote: "What must he have thought when he saw the Son of the Highest lying on the bosom of her whom he had espoused! He was happy to render any service to the newborn King. Since he accepted Mary as his espoused wife, her child was the heir of Joseph, and so of David; and thus was by right the King of the Jews."—**C.H. Spurgeon**

CONCLUSION

