

## JOSEPH - JESUS' FATHER? ~ Matthew 1:18-25

→ Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-21

### JOSEPH A RIGHTEOUS MAN ~ Matthew 1:18-25

[18] This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. [20] But after he had CONSIDERED this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "**Joseph son of David, do NOT be AFRAID** to take Mary home as your wife, because what is CONCEIVED in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will give birth to a son, and you are to **give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

**Matthew 28:19-20** (NLT) ...go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [20] Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**, even to the end of the age."

[23] "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him IMMANUEL"--which means, "God with us." [24] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

#### PEOPLE IN NAZARETH...

- thought Mary was IMMORAL
- thought Joseph & Mary were BOTH IMMORAL
- saw Jesus as an ILLEGITIMATE child

**Mark 6:3** (NIV) Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

[25] But he had NO UNION with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

#### JOSEPH Was...

- a RIGHTEOUS man - vs. 19
- a COMPASSIONATE man - vs. 19
- man of FAITH - vs. 20-23
- an OBEDIENT man - vs. 24
- a COURAGEOUS man - vs. 24-25

## APPLICATION

### JOSEPH WAS RIGHTEOUS AND COMPASSIONATE

- Cared MORE about Mary than himself
- Knew that FEELINGS were NOT a good Indication of Right or Wrong
- Believed the TRUTH about Mary

**Galatians 2:20** (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**2 Timothy 2:15** (NIV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

## APPLICATION

### JOSEPH WAS A MAN OF OBEDIENCE...

- took Mary as his wife RIGHT AWAY
- NAMED the baby Jesus
- OBEYED the Old Testament Law

### ➔ FAITH and OBEDIENCE must go hand in hand

**Habakkuk 3:17-19** (NIV) Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, [18] yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. [19] The **Sovereign LORD is my strength...**

### I WILL Continue to...

- REJOICE in the Lord
- Remember God is SOVEREIGN (in control)
- TRUST the Lord for Strength

## TAKE AWAY ???