

An Earthly Father With A Divine Task

Matthew 1:19

Introduction:

“TELL ME WHO YOUR _____ IS AND I’LL TELL YOU WHO _____ ARE”

1. Joseph Obeyed God _____.

. Note his steadfast obedience:

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, *he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him*: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (Matt 1:22–25, emphasis added)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” *And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt.* (Matt 2:13–14, emphasis added)

A few years later,² Joseph experiences two more dreams—one letting him know it was safe to leave Egypt (vv. 19–21) and another instructing him where to settle: in the Galilee (v. 22). All four times he obeys without question.

2. Joseph Was A _____ Man, Even In The Midst Of _____.

The CEB translation says Joseph didn’t want to “humiliate” her and so decided to “call off their engagement quietly.” His righteousness was regarding his observance of the law (Deut 22:13–31; see also Luke 1:6), and though there are a few ways this verse could be interpreted, some commentators feel Joseph—as a good Torah-observant Jew—would affirm this zeal for the law

by making her a public disgrace. (By law, he could legally divorce her for her “indecent” [Deut 24:1]). Yet Joseph chose to protect her reputation.

3. Joseph _____ and Accepted _____ For Jesus.

Conclusion:

Steven Lawson has written a book called The Legacy- Ten Core Values Every Father Must Leave His Child.

In the book there is a study that is performed contrasting a couple who are not Christian and a couple who are Christian and their descendants.

What they did was take a guy by the name of Max Jukes, who was an atheist, his wife was not a believer, and they traced their 1,200 descendants. And then they took Jonathan Edwards who preached that great sermon Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God and his wonderful, godly wife Sarah, and traced their descendants.

What I want to do is to help you understand one thing. Sincerity is not enough. You are making decisions in your life right now that determine your legacy.

Just look at the difference that a godly father makes in the life of a child!

Max Jukes first of all:

- 440 lives of outright debauchery
- 310 paupers and vagrants
- 190 public prostitutes
- 130 convicted criminals
- 100 alcoholics

- 60 habitual thieves
- 55 victims of impurity
- 7 murderers
- Total cost of their journey down here on earth to the state of New York was one million two hundred thousand dollars!

Are you ready for Jonathan Edwards?

- 300 clergymen, missionaries, or theological professors
- 120 college professors
- 110 lawyers
- 60 physicians
- 60 authors of good books
- 30 judges
- 14 presidents of universities
- numerous giants in American industry
- 3 U.S. congressmen
- 1 vice-president of the United States

Choices and decisions, make the impact on the legacy that you and I are going to leave.

What your children take from your life, in large measure, will define your legacy as a dad. Your lasting influence upon their lives will mark whether or not you lived successfully as a dad. This will be your legacy.