

The Journey of Joseph - Week 1

Matthew 1:1–17 — Why Start With the Genealogy?

- Matthew is establishing the legitimacy of Jesus as the Messiah.
- Jesus is the Son of David and Son of Abraham (fulfilled prophecy).
- Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth are included to show that Gentiles were part of God's plan from the beginning.
- 3 sections of 14 generations = 42 generations → God's intentional plan across ~2,000 years.

Prophecies Fulfilled:

- Genesis 22:18 — "Through your offspring all nations will be blessed."
- 2 Samuel 7:12–13 — God promises an everlasting king from David's line.

Matthew 1:18–25 — Joseph's Perspective

Understanding Betrothal (Jewish Marriage)

1. Initial Arrangement – Families agree to the marriage
2. Betrothal – Vows exchanged; *legally married* but not consummated
3. Marriage – Husband returns after up to a year to take his wife home

Joseph and Mary were in phase 2, meaning:

- Legally married
- Not yet living together
- Mary is found pregnant *before* they "came together"

Joseph discovers Mary is pregnant → an unexpected crisis

Joseph: A Righteous Man / What Does "Righteous" Mean?

- Conforms to God's standard
- Virtuous / high moral character
- Keeps God's commands
- Lives out God's heart even when life is confusing or painful

What We Learn From Joseph

1. A Righteous Man Doesn't Make Decisions Driven by Anger but by God's Word.
 - Joseph didn't respond with rage, revenge, or humiliation.
 - He followed God's law, not his emotions.
 - He chose to divorce Mary quietly to protect her from public shame.

Key Truth: Righteous men elevate God's Word above feelings.

2. A Righteous Man Responds With Grace and Mercy, Not Impulse.
 - Joseph had every legal right to expose Mary—but he refused.
 - He protected her dignity before he heard from the angel.
 - His character was revealed in a crisis.

Key Truth: Mercy > Ego / Compassion > Impulse

3. A Righteous Man Leads With Integrity Under Pressure.
 - Culturally, Joseph was expected to leave Mary.
 - He faced pressure from family, friends, and community.
 - The angel tells him: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife."
 - Joseph obeyed despite possible judgment.

Key Truth: Do what's right in God's eyes, not culture's eyes.

4. A Righteous Man Chooses Obedience to God Over His Reputation.
 - Staying with Mary could damage his reputation.
 - But Joseph cared more about obedience than image.
 - He chose God's plan, even when it made life harder.

Key Truth: Obedience > Reputation / Conviction > Comfort

The Call to Men Today

Joseph shows us the kind of men our homes and churches desperately need:

- Men who obey God's Word
- Men who lead with integrity
- Men who respond with mercy
- Men who withstand pressure
- Men who choose obedience over reputation

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2pm

4pm

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