

ADVENT: WEEK TWO

day 13

*The Earthly Father*

Matthew 1:18-24



Mary rightly gets much of the focus when considering the story of the birth of Jesus, but Joseph is an equally amazing example for Christ followers. We often focus on the fact that Mary was specifically chosen to be the mother of Christ; however, we don't always focus on the truth that Joseph was also chosen for his role in the life of Christ. He had amazing qualities that made God Almighty choose this man to be the earthly father of Jesus. In this story, we see that his first impulse is to cover Mary. Regardless of his belief in her account of the child's immaculate conception, he does want her to be disgraced or punished. Not only does he want to show grace but he also wants to take time with his decision. He does not act out of his initial feelings but goes home to think it over. All of us have experienced a decision made to gratify our flesh that ended up leading us in the wrong direction; Joseph took time, which gave God time to lead him in the right direction. We also see that Joseph always chose to go along with God's plan, even though it was inconvenient at best and often appeared to be downright foolish. Allen P. Ross writes, "The fear of the Lord' ultimately expresses reverential submission to the Lord's will and thus characterizes a true worshiper." For this reason, Joseph has always been a model of what a Christian ought to be. As Christians, our first priority should be to obey God. In order to be obedient, we sometimes have to wait on God to reveal His plans, just as Joseph did that first night after learning his betrothed was already with child.

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