

Advancing the Kingdom

“Leading the Advance”

Matthew 1:18-25

Often overlooked as a mere extra character in the Christmas story, Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, provides an impressive example of obedience for all fathers in every generation. A father’s faithful obedience is costly, but it impacts the entire world.

1. Characteristics of Obedience

- **Inward Traits**
 - ✓ **Godliness**
 - ✓ **Compassion**
 - ✓ **Responsible**
 - ✓ **Courageous**
 - ✓ **Unselfish**

- **Outward Actions**
 - ✓ **Obedied God with Immediacy**
 - ✓ **Obedied God out of Painful Circumstances**
 - ✓ **Obedied God in Spite of Fear**

2. Consequences of Obedience

- **Immediate Personal Impact**

- **Lifetime Course of Action**

3. Conclusions of Obedience

- **Inspiring Jesus’ View of God the Father**

- **Influencing Jesus’ Understanding of Submission**