

## POV: A Christmas Perspective2 "A Graceful Obedience"

How much do we know about Joseph? Isn't there more than one? He was the husband of Mary, Jesus' mom, and the man who helped raise the Son of God. Wow, that sounded weird! Who raises the Son of God? I'm sure it was quite a bit for Joseph to take in as well.

So, we know he was around the first few years and when Jesus was 12, teaching in the temple, but somewhere along the line, he passes of the scene. He is not at the crucifixion. What role did he play in the life of Jesus and what kind of man was he? He, no doubt, had a unique and personal POV (point of view). What can we learn from looking at the life of Joseph?

### **Matthew 1:18-25 NAS**

*18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*

*19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.*

*20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

*21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus.*

*for He will save His people from their sins."*

*22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

*23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."*

*24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife,*

*25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

### **Who was Joseph?**

-There are several in the Bible; here are the most prominent:

1. Joseph – 11<sup>th</sup> son of Jacob and 1<sup>st</sup> son of Rachel (famous one in the OT book of Genesis).

\*2. Joseph – foster father of Jesus; husband of Mary, Jesus' mother; carpenter.

3. Joseph of Arimathea – a secret disciple of Jesus, whose unused grave was surrendered to Jesus. He was a wealthy and devout Israelite and a member of the Sanhedrin.

### **What do we know about him?**

1. He was "a son of David" and could claim royal or priestly descent (Matt. 1:20).
2. His family belonged to Bethlehem, David's city.
3. He followed the trade of carpenter (Matt. 13:55).
4. He was a pious Israelite, faithful in all the ordinances of the Temple (Luke 2:22-24, 41, 42).

5. He was a kindly, charitable man, treating Mary gently in her time of need (Matt. 1:19; Luke 2:1-7).
6. He was faithful in his care of Christ, and deserved to be called His “father” (Luke 2:33, John 1:45, 6:42).
7. He never appears in the Gospels after Christ was twelve years of age. This would explain why Jesus, at His death, asked John to care for His mother.

**What can we learn from him?**

He handled the engagement to Mary and her pregnancy with grace.

Joseph was concerned with Mary’s reputation. Rather than make a big “stink” about her “apparent” indiscretion, he chose a graceful route.

Once he understood his role (after the dream), he stepped into it. He was a foster father to Jesus. He accepted God’s plan for himself.

He was obedient in naming Mary’s Son, Jesus, as told to Him by the angel; it wasn’t his legacy to protect.

**Bottom Line – Managing suspicion with grace goes a long way in eliminating it.**