

...When It's Hard Being A Man

Where Is God? | Part 10 | Pastor Vince DiPaola

The Challenges Of Manhood And God's Help Through It

(Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23)

1. Putting OUR WIFE'S NEEDS OVER OUR NEEDS.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1:18-19, NIV

2. Confronting OUR FEAR OF BEING A FAILURE.

But after he had considered this, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream** and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place **to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:** "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"— which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:20-25, NIV (see Isaiah 7:14)

3. Protecting OUR FAMILY FROM POTENTIAL DANGER.

When they had gone, **an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.** "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him. So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. **And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet:** "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 2:13-15, NIV (see Hosea 11:1)

4. Maintaining OUR OPENNESS TO GOD'S LEADING.

After Herod died, **an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph** in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who are trying to take the child's life are dead." So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. **Having been warned in a dream... he went and lived in a town called Nazareth.** **So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets:** "He will be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 2:19-23, NIV (see Psalm 22:6, Isaiah 53:3)

Joseph's reward:

- 1. He played a key role in Jesus' arrival into the world.**
- 2. He was empowered by God to meet his challenges.**
- 3. He is forever respected as a godly man and father.**