

Was Joseph Just a Dreamer? Matthew 1:18-25 Part 2

Stand Read Pray

What do we know about Joseph? He is the most least talked about person in the Christmas Story but one of the most important. He turns out to be someone that did more than just dream as we will see today.

Matthew 1:18-19

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Our first introduction to Joseph is that he finds himself in quite the dilemma. Remember last week we talked about a betrothal is the same as legal marriage. So, what is Joseph to do? I mean think about it, she was gone for three months and comes back pregnant!

Luke 1:56

And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

According to the law if she has been accused of adultery she should have been stoned to death. But without proof it is just considered an "Uncleanness"

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, 2 when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife, 3 if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the Lord, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Joseph was a man of Character. He took the time to think things through. He listened to all sides of the story and waited on the Lord. How do we know this? Look at what happens next...

Matthew 1:20-21

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Can you imagine having a dream like that? Why did the angel speak to him in dreams and to Mary in person? Don't know.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

Joel 2:28

"And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

Verse 21 is a condensed version of what was told to Mary and is good news to Joseph's ears. He understands that Mary is carrying the Messiah! But what you need to know is that Joseph was obedient to God. He didn't brush it off on a bad taco the night before. He also realizes that this newfound trust in God is going to come with some consequences. Not everyone is going to believe them. They will forever have to live with the story of possible infidelity. It was going to be a hard life for them.

What about you? Are you willing to pay the price it takes to live a life of Faith?

Romans 1:13-17

13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. 14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Matthew 8:34-38

34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

John 15:18-19

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Joseph will face a life of poverty and ridicule. Why? Because he trusted in God and followed His will instead of his own. We can learn a lot from Joseph.

Matthew 1:22-25

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

We covered verses 22-23 last week but notice in verse 24...did as the angel told him! Again, are we obedient to the Lord? All Joseph had was his wife's story and a dream and we have God's word and the indwelling of the holy Spirit. What's our excuse?

In verse 25 we have more proof that Mary did not stay a virgin as the Roman Catholics try to say. It says he did not know her TILL she had Jesus. She did have sons and daughters.

By the time Jesus started His ministry we no longer see Joseph in the narrative as we assume he died which was common in those times, but we just don't know. But we do know the years he lived were not easy.

Mark 6:1-6

Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the **carpenter**, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.

4 But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed

them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Jesus had to deal with this Himself

John 8:37-47

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father."

Then they said to Him, "We were **not born of fornication**; we have one Father—God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

It probably wouldn't be right to say that Joseph was the good example to Christ but in a way he was. He was willing to take the shame for the joy of being the Lord's stepdad. Jesus took the shame for His Father too.

We are going to look at the Magi next week but let's jump ahead a little bit to the last part of Matthew 2...

Matthew 2:13-15

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

The Lord will continue to reach you where you will be the most apt to listen. For Joseph it was his dreams. For us today it is His word. But to confirm these things he will use the circumstances of our life. For the most part trials. Joseph had to run for their lives!

Just a reminder...

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance [b]incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been [c]grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not [d]seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

James 1:2-8

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work,

that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let's read the rest of Matthew 2...

Matthew 2:16-23

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

***18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."
The Home in Nazareth***

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

We will deal with Herod next week but just to have the context with Joseph we read it through.

Joseph allowed the trials of his life to prune the character that God needed him to be to fulfill His will. Notice through all this Joseph was used to fulfill two prophecies concerning Jesus.

Hosea 11:1

“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.

This is pretty obscure but verse 23 even more so...

I got this from Gotquestions.org...

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Matthew-2-23-Jesus-Nazarene.html>

How can we apply that to our lives? To trust in God and allow Him to shape us into the Person, He wants us to be. Our trials and circumstances may seem obscure for now, but God has a plan. Even if what God is telling you in His word doesn't make sense right now it will one day. When we are in heaven all of it will be made right and we will be in awe of the wisdom and power of God. Just think, as far as we know Joseph never did see Jesus in His ministry. Never saw the miracles, never saw the fulfillment of the prophet's message in his earthly lifetime. But he does now! It makes perfect sense to him now. It will to us one day too.

Let's close in Ephesians 2:1-10

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the [a]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit

together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Are you His workmanship or your own? In order to be you have to be His to begin with. You must first, hand over the reins of your life and trust Him.

Trust in Him today!

Stand – Pray - Closing Song