

SONGS OF THE SAVIOR
The Gift of Obedience – Joseph
Week 3 Advent December 17, 2023
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The world was under the rule of Emperor Augustus.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:1–5

Joseph had a dream. He had to trust that what he was told during his sleep was actually from God.

It is amazing that this quiet man, who we don't really know much about, may have been the most faith-filled person in the Christmas story.

OBEY GOD IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Joseph has a plan...avoid the difficult times.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant 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

So, Joseph has a plan.

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..." Matthew 1:20–25

Obedience is not about who is watching. Obedience is about trusting God's plan even when it seems impossible and doesn't make sense.

The baby that Mary was carrying would grow up to say these words:

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

OBEY GOD IN DISTANT PLACES

Joseph has three dream visits from the angel.

The first comes when he is instructed to take Mary as his wife even though she is pregnant.

The Second comes after the Magi make their visit to see the Christ child:

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. Matthew 2:13–14

OBEY GOD IN DAILY LIFE

The final dream we have of Joseph's is a calling back to Jerusalem.

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 were 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 withdrew to the district of Galilee, and 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

It is the day-to-day obedience in our lives that builds up the bedrock of being a disciple of Christ.

AN OFFERING OF OBEDIENCE

We don't know what became of Joseph. We just know he was obedient. Oh, that the same thing would be said of us.