

## Matthew 1:18-25 – What Does Joseph Teach Us About Courage At Christmas?

November 28, 2021

### What is the background on Joseph's life?

- A. Joseph was a carpenter. (Mark 6:3)
- B. The last time we heard from Joseph was when Jesus was 12 years old.
- C. Joseph most likely died before Jesus' ministry began. (John 19:26)

### Mary had an unexpected change in her plans.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18 (ESV)

*And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. Luke 1:30–35 (ESV)*

*And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38 (ESV)*

- There were two-stages in a Jewish wedding. The *Kuddushin* period was the engagement. The *Huppa* was the marriage ceremony.

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. Matthew 1:19 (ESV)

"If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones,..." Deuteronomy 22:23–24 (ESV)

## **Why does it take courage to have Jesus in my life?**

*But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."*

Matthew 1:20 (ESV)

### **1. If I am going to have Jesus in my life, I must have the courage to be shamed for Jesus.**

*You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God."*

John 8:41 (ESV)

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (ESV)*

### **2. If I am going to have Jesus in my life, I need to have the courage to let Jesus be in control.**

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. Matthew 1:24–25 (ESV)

### **3. If I am going to have Jesus in my life, I need the courage to obey God's words, even when they are hard.**

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:22–23 (ESV)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Matthew 2:13–15 (ESV)

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (ESV)

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene. Matthew 2:19–23 (ESV)

## Conclusion

### 1. Asking Jesus into my life will take courage.

- I must be willing to have the world laugh at me because of Jesus.
- I must be willing to give up control of my life and let Jesus be in charge.
- I must be willing to obey what God asks, even when it is hard.

### 2. Where did Joseph find the courage to take Mary and Jesus into his life?

- I think that when Joseph realized Mary courageously sacrificed her life to be willing to give birth to Jesus, the one who would save him from his sin, that helped him find the courage to give up his life to care for her. In a similar way, the more we learn about how courageously Jesus gave up his life to save us, the more courage we will find to give up our lives to serve our savior.

### 3. What do Mary and Joseph teach us about what it means to become a Christian?

- We are like Mary. We are helpless, rejected, and full of shame. We need someone to save us. Jesus is like Joseph. Just as Joseph chose to give up his life to be Mary's earthly savior, Jesus chose to give up his life to our heavenly savior. He died for our sin to bring us back to God.

## Life Group Questions

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1. Review the message. What was new that you didn't know?
2. Joseph was fearful to take Mary as his wife because he knew it would ruin his reputation for the rest of his life. In what ways did asking Jesus into your life bring shame and rejection? See Matthew 5:11-12, 1 Peter 4:14-16. What do these verses tell us are the benefits and promises for those willing to endure shame for Jesus?
3. For Joseph to have Jesus in his life, he also needed to give up control. Joseph wasn't allowed to name Jesus because he wouldn't have authority over Jesus. Why must we give God control for Jesus to come into our life? See Luke 22:39-42, Luke 1:34-38 (especially v. 38), John 21:15-19. What do these verses teach us about letting God be in control of our life and our future?
4. Joseph's character was notable because he immediately obeyed God's Word, even when it was hard. What could have happened if Joseph hesitated to obey or made excuses to avoid what God told him to do? When God instructs us from his word, why do we often hesitate to obey or make excuses? What can we forfeit when we delay obedience or avoid obedience? See John 3:36, 1 John 5:2-3. What do these verses teach us about obeying God's Words?
5. Today we learned about the courage Joseph needed to bring Jesus into his life at Christmas. Why does everyone still need courage to ask Jesus into their lives today? See Mark 8:34-38.