

"Joseph – A Faithful Husband"
Dec. 9, 2012
Scripture Reading –Matthew 1:18-25

1. A solid foundation of truth and grace.

"And her husband, Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame..." (Matt. 1:19a)

2. A healthy discernment of choices.

"...resolved to divorce her quietly." (Matt. 1:19b)

3. A willing heart of obedience.

"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife." (Matt. 1:24)

"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise and take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt...And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt." (Matt. 1:13-14)

4. A unselfish daily relationship.

"But knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." (Matt. 1:25)

Application:

1. Which of the four qualities discussed do you need to think about this Christmas as it relates to your marriage? How can you improve?
2. Take some time this week and discuss the marriage relationship of Mary and Joseph. Thank the Lord for what He is showing you. What can you do this week as an act of compassion and unselfishness?

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
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1. Discuss the good and bad of the Jewish way of marriage. (Contract between fathers and a one year wait) How is Joseph described in Matt. 1:19? What does it mean to be a "just" man? (Also Micah 6:8) Give examples. What do we also learn about Joseph in his unwillingness to put her to shame? Discuss the balance of character in Joseph and also seen in Jesus in Jn. 1:14. Discuss the need in marriages for both grace and truth.
2. In the Jewish culture, what were the two possible responses to a bride that is expecting a child? (Deut. 24:1; 22:23-24; Mark 10:4) What choice did Joseph make? (Matt. 1:19) How do we discern the will of God?
 - Psalm 119:125; 143:8 –
 - Prov. 12:5 –
 - Col. 4:3 –
 - Psalm 119:105 –
3. Joseph had a dream from the Lord. (Matt. 1:20) What do you think about dreams? Discuss the three possible sources of dreams. (Human, Demonic, Divine) How do we know its source? (See previous bullet points)
4. What did Joseph do when he woke up from the dream? (Matt. 1:24) Discuss the difficulty of this step of obedience. Share with one another the challenges we face today in obeying the Lord. (John 15:4)
5. As Joseph is seeking to be a faithful husband, he must make some daily decisions. (Matt. 1:25) Discuss the role of sacrifice and unselfishness in a healthy marriage. What does the name "Jesus" mean? Why was this name a statement of unselfishness on Joseph's part?
6. Is there power in the name of Jesus? (Acts 4:12; Heb. 12:2; John 14:6; Phil. 2:9-10) Every Christ-follower and every Christian family should submit to Jesus in everything they do. Discuss how such a focus can transform a family.