

The Gospel of Matthew #3

CHRISTMAS THROUGH JOSEPH’S EYES

Matthew 1:18-25

Have you ever thought of Joseph as a hero of the Faith?
He was tested and is a model of faithfulness for us in 3 ways:

I. His _____ Role of _____

To believe the angel (no Qs asked) who says that Mary really
is pregnant by the Holy Spirit to bear Messiah!
Sure!

Model for you:

- A. Believe the Gospel simply because God says it:
Jesus *alone* can save you from your sins
- B. Obey the Gospel where God commands it:
Is there a difficult word for *your* life this holiday?

II. His _____ Role of _____

To live with Mary without sexual union until after the birth of
Jesus.
Great!

Model for you:

Going *beyond* what is required of you as a Christian to
express your devotion or to make yourself more useful to
your Master.
Can you think of any way in your life you could—and *want* to
do that?

III. His _____ Role of _____

To *choose* to be shamed along with Mary and then raise Jesus
as his own son without the privileges and recognition of a
father.
Wonderful!

Model for you:

- A. Are you willing to suffer *shame* for the sake of Jesus?
How might He call you?
- B. Are you willing to serve God in the calling and
opportunities He gives you, without credit and recognition
from others?

Joseph points us to look anew at Jesus:

1. His faith & obedience without limit
2. His sacrificial devotion for you
3. His humility even to death on a cross—for you

And Joseph is an example to you today of:

1. Believing God’s Word in the “impossible”
2. Going beyond what is required, out of sheer devotion
3. Humbly doing your duty without demanding or needing credit
and recognition

Where does Joseph speak to you today?