



Heroes & Villains Series, No. 48: Joseph, Matthew 1-2

Mike Halpin ~ February 9, 2020

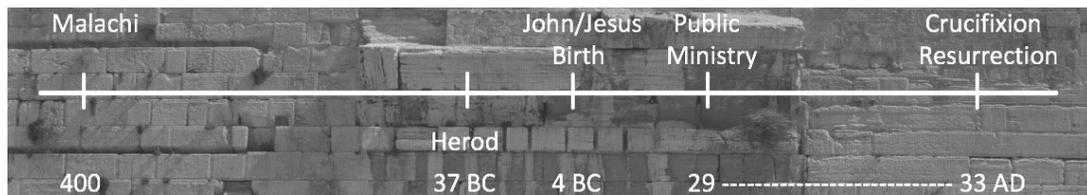
Intro: In just over 30 years, books in the “Where’s Waldo” (or “Where’s Wally”) series have sold over 55 million copies...

You may find that God calls on you to be a face in the crowd, an instrument heard only as the blend of many instruments, a second, or third fiddle whose music may be lost to the larger orchestra.

What does faithfulness to God on our part look like when our role is a secondary one? _____

What do we bring to the unimpressive roles God calls us to fill? _____

Main point– *Faithfulness when God is our only audience is the epitome of Christ like faithfulness.*



Text:

Pew Bible Page # 807

Matthew 1:1–17; Joseph was a son of Abraham and a son of David...

Matthew 1:18–21

Matthew 2:13–23

Matthew 2:19–23

I. Joseph’s Noble Faithfulness—

For the very small amount of our story Joseph occupies he shines undimmed in ways few others in Scripture do. Scriptures testimony to Joe is entirely positive.

Son of David
Vs 1-17, 20

Righteous
V 19

Selfless/thoughtful/kind
V 19

Proverbs 19:22

Ladies, if you're hoping to be married: _____

Men: _____

II. Joseph's Pattern of Faithfulness—

Matthew 1:20–25

God had a higher purpose for Joseph's marriage and family than he could have known.

Joseph's interaction at each stage of God's plan:

Matthew 2:13–15

Matthew 2:19–23

How do we do at simply obeying the clear commands of God? _____

III. Faithfulness in Supporting Roles—

For all of Joe's exemplary faithfulness to God and God's commands it bears noting that Joe really plays a secondary, supportive role in this grand story.

- Joseph's role in God's drama is like a silent extra, he never speaks, while Mary is given voice multiple times in the birth narrative.
- Joseph appears in Luke's birth narrative only as Mary's fiancé; he isn't mentioned in Mark's gospel at all.
- Aside from the birth narratives Joseph disappears from the story altogether.
- The only time his name is used after Jesus' birth is as Jesus' father, sometimes derogatorily so: Jesus is *only* the son of Joseph (Luke 4:22; John 1:45; 6:42 and Matthew 13:55).

The grand challenge of faithfulness in the life of Joseph was to play second fiddle, to not stand out in the crowd, to be given a supporting role that most people would consider insignificant or forgettable.

Michael Horton, from *Ordinary: Facing another day, with ordinary callings to ordinary people all around us is much more difficult than chasing my own dreams that I have envisioned for the grand story of my life.*

Where is God calling me to serve him? Am I taking up that/those charge(s)? _____

What disappointment in my calling do I need to give to God so I can proceed in faithfulness? _____

Am I content to serve for God's pleasure, whether anyone else knows or applauds my efforts? _____

If we reject the temptation to believe fame is significance, we're free to embrace faithfulness to God in any and every place he puts us, as Joseph did, as Jesus did.