

Joseph: The Earthly Father of Jesus

Selected Scriptures

God chose Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus. The Bible tells us in the Gospel of Matthew that Joseph was a righteous man. His actions toward Mary, his fiancée, revealed he was a kind and sensitive man. When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he had every right to feel disgraced. Although Joseph's initial reaction was to break the engagement—the appropriate thing for a righteous man to do—he treated Mary with extreme kindness. He did not want to cause her further shame, so he decided to act quietly. But God sent an angel to Joseph to verify Mary's story and reassure him that his marriage to her was God's will. Joseph willingly obeyed God, in spite of the public humiliation he would face. Perhaps this noble quality made him God's choice for the Messiah's earthly father. The Bible does not reveal much detail about Joseph's role as father to Jesus Christ, but what it does reveal is that he was an excellent earthly example of integrity and righteousness. His example is worthy of following.

I. INTRODUCTION:

II. EXPOSITION: Matthew 1:18-24; 2:13-23, Luke 2:1-7; 21-52

A. Joseph was a man of Integrity and Compassion.

B. Joseph was sensitive to God's Leading:

- *He listened to God's Messengers in his dreams*

- *He obeyed established governments*

- *He obeyed God's religious orders*

C. Joseph Protected and Provided for His Family:

III. CONCLUSION AND FOUR IMPORTANT APPLICATIONS:

A. *Godly fathers love their wives and are willing to sacrifice for them.*

B. *Godly fathers protect their family's reputations and provide for them.*

C. *Godly fathers are the spiritual leaders of their homes.*

D. *Godly fathers realize obedient actions are more important than well-intentioned words.*

(This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying this morning's message. Second in a series of messages by Pastor Hornok on "Lesser Knowns...Better Known". This message is available online at www.MidvalleyBible.org. MBC 6/21/2015)