

“JESUS: SON OF JOSEPH”

“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.”

- Matthew 1:18-25

THE STEPS OF A FIRST CENTURY JEWISH WEDDING:

1. The Engagement Period.
2. The Betrothal Period.
3. The Marriage.

WHAT I APPRECIATE ABOUT JOSEPH:

1. His relationship with God the Father.

“Because **Joseph** her husband **was faithful to the law**, and yet **did not want to expose her to public disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

- Matthew 1:19

- The people closest to us most often test our relationship with God.

2. His attitude towards Mary.

“Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet **did not want to expose her to public disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

- Matthew 1:19, 20

- A person is known not by how he acts when he is in control, but how he reacts when things are beyond his control.

3. His sensitivity to God.

“But **after he had considered this**, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife**, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

- Matthew 1:20,21

It’s hard to be sensitive to God...

- When you’ve made your own plans.
- When you’re emotionally involved with the problem.
- When risk is involved.
- When God’s plan doesn’t make sense.
- When others will not understand.

4. His obedience to God.

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, **he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him** and took Mary home as his wife.”

- Matthew 1:22-24

Four times we see Joseph obeying God:

- Joseph took Mary to be his wife. (Matthew 1:24)
- Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. (Matthew 2:14)
- Joseph returned to Israel with them. (Matthew 2:21)
- Joseph returned to Nazareth in Galilee. (Matthew 2:22,23)

5. His desire to glorify God.

“But he **did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son**. And he gave Him the name Jesus.”

- Matthew 1:25

- Why do you think Joseph had no union with Mary until after the birth of Jesus?

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