

Mary & Joseph – A Focus on Obedience

Two Things We Are Learning...

1. There are lots of people (in fact, the vast majority) who want to celebrate Christmas in the true “Christmas Spirit,” but they are simply not focused on the right things.
2. If others are your priority, you won't miss Christmas.

The Scriptures

“On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived. ²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about Him.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him. ⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When He was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.” - Luke 2:21-24, 33, 39-42

The Difficulties for Joseph and Mary

- Public humiliation.
- Mockery and religious separation.
- Lack of trust.

“Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.” - Matthew 1:19

- Sorrow (they and their families)

“As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.” - Luke 2:35



Obedience –

1. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to have Him circumcised on the right day for such a ceremony.

“On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.” - Leviticus 12:3

 - Circumcision, and in fact much of God's law, was to remind us of sin.
 - Why did Jesus have to be circumcised then?

“Then He went down to Nazareth with them, and was obedient to them.” - Luke 2:51

2. Joseph and Mary gave their Son the name that the angel had instructed them to give to Him.

“He was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel...” - Luke 2:21

- The name, Yeshua (Joshua) means “God is salvation”.

3. Joseph and Mary met the purification requirements following childbirth and on the right day.

“On the eighth day the boy's foreskin must be circumcised. ⁴ After waiting thirty-three days, she will be purified from the bleeding of childbirth. During this time of purification, she must not touch anything that is set apart as holy. And she must not enter the sanctuary until her time of purification is over.” - Leviticus 12:3,4

4. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to consecrate Him to the Lord.

“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” - Exodus 13:2

5. Joseph and Mary marveled at the prophecy that had been given to the righteous man, Simeon.

6. When Joseph and Mary had fulfilled everything that the Law required, they returned to Nazareth.

- Nothing left undone. Though just teenagers, they obeyed fully.

7. Every year, Joseph and Mary attended the feast of Passover because it was required of them.

“Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread...” - Deuteronomy 16:16

8. When Jesus was 12, as was the custom, He was included in the trip to Jerusalem.

- Bar mitzvahs began long before the time of Jesus.

Consider –

1. We often think of obedience as avoiding the things that we should not do. But in many instances, obedience is following the Lord and doing the things we should do.
2. Christians have two commands: to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbours.

How do you evaluate your obedience in these commands?

“All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” - Matthew 22:40

Father, in this Christmas season my hope is found only in your Son, Jesus Christ. I am continually thankful to you for all of life. I want to honour you with my obedience, and I want to be like you as I give to others. Amen.

Mary & Joseph – A Focus on Obedience

Two Things We Are Learning...

1. There are _____ of people (in fact, the vast majority) who want to celebrate Christmas in the true “Christmas Spirit,” but they are simply not focused on the right things.
2. If _____ are your priority, you won't miss Christmas.

The Scriptures

“On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived. ²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

³³The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about Him.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him. ⁴¹ Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When He was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.” - Luke 2:21-24, 33, 39-42

The Difficulties for Joseph and Mary

- Public _____.
- Mockery and religious separation.
- Lack of _____.

“Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.” - Matthew 1:19

- _____ (they and their families)

“As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.” - Luke 2:35



Obedience –

1. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to have Him circumcised on the _____ day for such a ceremony.

“On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.” - Leviticus 12:3

 - Circumcision, and in fact much of God’s law, was to remind us of _____.
 - Why did Jesus have to be circumcised then?

“Then He went down to Nazareth with them, and was obedient to them.” - Luke 2:51

2. Joseph and Mary gave their Son the _____ that the angel had instructed them to give to Him.

“He was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel...” - Luke 2:21

 - The name, Yeshua (Joshua) means “God is _____”.
3. Joseph and Mary met the purification requirements following childbirth and on the right day.

“On the eighth day the boy’s foreskin must be circumcised. ⁴ After waiting thirty-three days, she will be purified from the bleeding of childbirth. During this time of purification, she must not touch anything that is set apart as holy. And she must not enter the sanctuary until her time of purification is over.” - Leviticus 12:3,4
4. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to _____ Him to the Lord.

“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” - Exodus 13:2
5. Joseph and Mary marveled at the _____ that had been given to the righteous man, Simeon.
6. When Joseph and Mary had fulfilled _____ that the Law required, they returned to Nazareth.
 - Nothing left undone. Though just teenagers, they obeyed fully.
7. Every year, Joseph and Mary attended the feast of _____ because it was required of them.

“Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread...” - Deuteronomy 16:16
8. When Jesus was _____, as was the custom, He was included in the trip to Jerusalem.
 - Bar mitzvahs began long before the time of Jesus.

Consider –

1. We often think of obedience as _____ the things that we should not do. But in many instances, obedience is following the Lord and doing the things we should do.
2. Christians have _____ commands: to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbours.

How do you evaluate your obedience in these commands?

“All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” - Matthew 22:40

Father, in this Christmas season my hope is found only in your Son, Jesus Christ. I am continually thankful to you for all of life. I want to honour you with my obedience, and I want to be like you as I give to others. Amen.