

Fresh Surrender week 6

The Forgotten Man of Christmas

Matt 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 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. 20 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. 21 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." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"- which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. NIV

Christmas is still fresh in our minds, but we seem to overlook **Joseph**, the earthly father of Jesus.

What kind of man would you choose to be the **protector** and **provider** for the mother of God's son?

God did not look for someone who was:

- **Vastly rich**, who could provide for the King of Kings
- An **earthly king**, who could teach Jesus the proper way for a king to handle himself in the proper way of handling power and prestige
- An **evangelist** who could school him in the proper ways of preaching and the taking of a good love offering.

Instead, He chose a **humble carpenter**. But not just any carpenter. He picked one who worked with his hands, **trusted** in his heart, and sought **humility** instead of elevating himself to honor.

Things about Joseph we need to look at if we are to be the people that makes Christmas last more than one day:

1. Joseph had **convictions**
 - Joseph was a **righteous** man, solid in the teaching of God.
 - He was a man of good **reputation**; he served God and was honest with men in his business dealings.
2. Joseph had an **uncommon** faith.
 - Mary knew the truth of the **source** of the life in her, but now Joseph had to also believe her and soon the words of God.

- He teaches us that convictions are always a prerequisite of **faith**.
3. Joseph had **character**
 - Joseph offered her the same thing God gives to us-- mercy and **forgiveness**.
 4. Joseph had a **conversation**
Joseph's Response
 - He **listened** Waiting on God with a listening ear is one of the hardest **disciplines** we must do as Christians.
 - He **learned**
 - He **leaned** God will always give us assignments that go beyond our own **ability**.
 5. Joseph chose complete **obedience**
 - He faced **distress**
 - He faced **decisions**
 - He faced his own **dreams**
But waiting God will replace his dreams with the **reality** of God's perfect will
 - He learned a truth we all need to learn and its seeing all this from God's **perspective**.

Joseph teaches us:

- Man's plans sometimes get **interrupted** by God's plans.
- God's plans are **perfect** but not always easy.
- Faith is simply not allowing **fear** to have a place in my mind.

Faith understands

- What's inside Mary is from **God**.
- What's inside Mary **IS** God.
- What's inside Mary is going to **save** Mary and Joseph and the world.
- When threatened by the **unknown** or the difficult, remember His name is Emmanuel. (God with us)

Final thought:

Joseph reached his full **potential** because he believed God.