

Fear Not, Just Obey

Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph

- Joseph was considered to be the Father of Christ by the people of Nazareth.
- Betrothal was a legally binding contract, which could only be broken by death or by divorce.
- Joseph had two options:
 - He could have Mary stoned to death.
 - He could divorce Mary.
- Joseph was a righteous man, so he decided to go through with a quiet divorce.
- Joseph must have felt betrayed, while Mary probably felt hurt because he did not believe her.
- The children that Mary had after Jesus were Joseph's.

Because Joseph Obeyed, Mary Had a Husband

- Mary was not chosen to carry the son of God alone.
- Who Mary was, was tied to Joseph.
- Jesus was never intended to be raised in the home of a single parent.
- As a woman, 2000 years ago:
 - Mary would have been limited in how she could earn a living.
 - Mary would have been scorned and ostracized.
 - Mary would have been seen as having loose morals and being easy prey.
- Joseph understood that, until Jesus was born, Mary was to remain a virgin.

Because Joseph Obeyed, Jesus Had a Father

- Not having a father would have subjected Jesus to ridicule and distain.
- When He was 12, Jesus had an awareness of Who His Father actually was.
- Jesus' need for the protection of a father came from a carpenter named Joseph.
- Joseph was there to protect Jesus, to provide Him with the father figure who would educate Him, who would teach Him a trade and who would provide Him a stable home.

Conclusion

- Obedience often comes with a price, and because Joseph obeyed, he paid a price.
- We operate under the assumption that if we are obedient everything will be okay, but that is not always the way it works.
- We have been called to obey God.
- God's messenger's challenge to Joseph, "*Fear not, just obey,*" is our challenge today!