

God Chose Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

During this time of year much emphasis is placed on Mary and the honor of becoming the mother of Jesus. Yes, she deserves to be thanked and held in great respect, but too often, we forget about Joseph. His example and lifestyle are very influential in the life of Jesus and this morning I want to take just a few minutes to look at the man God chose to be the earthly father to His Son.

Look at the miracle of the Incarnation from Joseph's perspective.

What can we glean from Joseph's story?

1. Don't give up. Don't give up when your heart is heavy. Don't give up if the spotlight has eluded you. Maybe like Joseph, you have a supporting role to play but that doesn't make it unimportant. Without you the drama will be cold and empty.
2. Don't despair if the road you have been traveling is a road of sorrow and pain or if you have had to make tough decisions because of things that have happened to you. Perhaps like Joseph, the loss will open your heart to hear God. Be ready to embrace what God has for you in the near future.
3. Joseph was faced with a choice. He could do his will or God's will. It was not an easy choice – nor was it an easy road but when asked by God to step out in faith Joseph rose to the occasion and obeyed God. In the end I can't imagine Joseph ever regretting that decision. Sweet was the reward for his courage.

He was there at the birth of our Savior. Joseph would have experienced the fear of death by Herod as he tried to make ends meet in Egypt for a few years. But Joseph heard the Shepherds tell their story. He, along with Mary, was the beneficiary of the gifts brought by the Magi. The last record in the Bible concerning Joseph the Carpenter is in Luke's gospel as he searches and finds Jesus in the temple.

God handpicked Joseph to help raise His Son.

Remember, the One who loves you is the One who held back nothing. This is the same One who loved us to the extent of sending His own Son for us all.