

JESUS IS THE REASON

Sunday Morning, December 1, 2024 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Joseph's Choice

Message Text: Matthew 1:16-25

Introduction

We have all heard the saying, “Jesus is the reason for the season.” All around us we observe our secular society removing Christ as the focus of the Christmas. He has been replaced with extravagant gift-giving, festivities and a whole lot of busyness. In the midst of all of this, we as followers of Christ should remember that Jesus ought to be the reason for everything we do. This was the case for Joseph, the step-father of Christ. Let's consider his example and see how Jesus became the reason for the choices Joseph made.

1. A Desired _____ (16-18b)

A. An Assumed _____ (16-17)

Matthew 1:16–17 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

DEFINITION—BEGAT: to father

NOTE — Matthew opens up with the royal lineage of Jesus Christ — from Abraham to Joseph. This legally verified Christ's claim as King of the Jews.

Matthew 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

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sermon notes



NOTE — There are five women mentioned in this genealogy.
(3, 5, 6, 16)

B. An Awaited _____ (18a)

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph...

DEFINITION—ESPOUSED: to be betrothed; to be or become legally promised in marriage to someone else.

NOTE — When the marriage had been arranged, the couple entered the betrothal period, usually lasting a year and much more binding than the engagement of today. During that year the man prepared the home for his bride. — *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

THE WEDDING — Largely social event lasting up to a week full of festivities, feasts, songs and blessings for the couple (*See Genesis 24:60*). It included the formalizing of the marriage contract.

2. A Divine _____ (18b-23)

A. A Miraculous _____ (18-19)

Matthew 1:18-19 ...before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

QUOTE: Marriages were arranged for individuals by parents, and contracts were negotiated. After this was accomplished, the individuals were considered married and were called husband and wife. They did not, however, begin to live together. Instead, the woman continued to live with her parents and the man with his for one year. The waiting period was to demonstrate the faithfulness of the pledge of purity given concerning the bride. If she was found to be with child in this period, she obviously was not pure, but had been involved in an unfaithful sexual relationship. Therefore the marriage could be annulled. If, however, the one-year waiting period demonstrated the purity of the bride, the husband would then go to the house of the bride's parents and in a grand processional march lead his bride back to his home. There they would begin to live together as husband and wife and consummate their marriage physically. Matthew's story should be read with this background in mind. —BKC

NOTE — Joseph's gracious disposition and love for Mary is seen in his response to the news of her pregnancy.

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the Lord: Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord.

B. A Messianic _____ (20-23)

Matthew 1:20–23 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

DEFINITION—THOUGHT: to meditate; to reflect deeply on a subject.

THE ANGELS MESSAGE — included affirmation, direction, clarification and explanation for Joseph.

PROPHECY FULFILLED — declared 700 years previously

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

NOTE — There are over _____ prophecies that Christ fulfilled.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Galatians 4:4–5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

3. A Deliberate _____ (24-25)

A. He Embraced God's _____ (24a)

Matthew 1:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him...

DEFINITION—DID: to do, act, to carry out

DEFINITION—BIDDEN: to order formally; to order with official authorization.

NOTE — Obeying God likely meant that Joseph faced being misunderstood in society.

John 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

B. He Embraced His _____ (24b-25)

Matthew 1:25 ...and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

HE TOOK HIS WIFE

DEFINITION—TAKE: to bring along; to take or lead someone apart from general association for a particular purpose.

QUOTE: One can only imagine the relief and joy of Mary when Joseph nobly rose to his high duty toward her. —A.T. Robertson

HE NAMED HIS SON — this was Joseph's responsibility as Christ's father.

Conclusion

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.



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