

December 12, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
A Star Is Born // Episode 3: Joseph
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Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet 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 conceive and 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 did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Role Of Family: (Vs. 25) Jesus was born in the context of a family.

1. The family is a masterpiece of God's creation and the center of earthly government.
2. Marriage and parenthood reveal God's character and God put children in families so they can experience His love and learn how to love others.
 - **Deuteronomy 6:7** *You shall teach them (God's commands) diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*

Why did Jesus need an earthly Father and who was Joseph? Carpenter (Matthew 13:55), Descendent of King David (Matthew 1:16)

Joseph was Faithful and Honorable Vs. 19 *Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

- **Faithful:** Joseph kept his family closely knit into his faith tradition. (Jesus dedicated Luke 2:22-38, Luke 2:41 Feast of Passover)
- **Honorable:** Here in vs. 19, the phrase "and yet" shows the delicate balance between legalism and grace.
- **Courageous Faith:** In believing in what he could not see, Joseph backs up his faith with the courage to move forward.
 - **Vs. 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.*

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage,
you can't practice any other virtue consistently." - Maya Angelou

- **Obedient: Vs. 24** *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

Small Group Questions:

1. God is seen as the ultimate Father in scripture. Why do you think he still made sure that Jesus had an earthly father as well?
2. What are some ways we might give away the power of our families to commercialism, personal ambition and the like?
3. Which of Joseph's main qualities are most inspiring to you?
4. Joseph kept his family closely knit within a faith community. He dedicated Jesus, attended the festivals, etc. How can we do the same and what are the benefits of this model?
5. What do you see as the most important quality of godly fatherhood?