



## Lesson 2: JOSEPH – Obedient Faith (Matt. 1:18-25; 2:13-23)

Mary, the mother of Jesus, has commands a great deal of attention during the Christmas season and for good reason! But how many times have you heard a message on the life of Joseph, Jesus earthly father?

Joseph is often called the “\_\_\_\_\_ Partner of the Incarnation.” He is the original \_\_\_\_\_ type for not a word that Joseph ever spoke is recorded for us in the Bible. Joseph’s words are not recorded because his words are really not as important as his actions. He is described in Scripture as a “\_\_\_\_\_ man” (Matt. 1:19).

His walk certainly talks louder than his talk talks. Joseph’s character is stamped with righteousness. The life of Joseph bring us to ask this question: “\_\_\_\_\_?”

While we have nothing of what Joseph *said* we can get a pretty good look at who he was by what he *did*. Joseph proves that a godly man is not just \_\_\_\_\_, but lots of \_\_\_\_\_!

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MAN GOD USES (1:18-25)

Joseph is described as a “\_\_\_\_\_” or “\_\_\_\_\_” man in verse 19.

### A. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ people (1:18-19)

By right Joseph could have disgraced Mary or even stoned her to death but the text clearly states that is not what he wanted to do! Instead of the legalistic law of the Pharisees, Joseph pursued to spirit of the law – love. The character of the man God uses is filled with authentic, loving, \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ people (1:20-25)

It is interesting to not read any \_\_\_\_\_ from Joseph. As soon as he awakes from his sleep he begins taking steps of obedience. The overarching character of those that God uses is that they are go-getters.

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MAN GOD USES

A direct divine appointment calmed Joseph’s heart and yet the task at hand was still great.

### A. He had to overcome profound \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible introduces Joseph to us as a man weighing his options. “What should I do with Jesus?” That same question has been asked by many for generations.

You will begin to please God when you begin to believe His Word!

### B. He had to leave his \_\_\_\_\_

The key to the book of Matthew is understanding the 20<sup>th</sup> verse. Joseph is the “Son of \_\_\_\_\_.” There is a dream that is somehow being skewed in Joseph’s mind now. He is being told by an angel that the son who is going to claim the throne is not his physical son.

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MAN GOD USES (2:13-23)

Here we read of two more visits from angelic messengers to Joseph.

### A. Leave your \_\_\_\_\_ up to God (2:13-15)

In this second visit by an angel God’s will for Joseph and Mary is revealed and His will is for them to accompany the Savior into \_\_\_\_\_. That’s a 50 mile trip from Bethlehem to a place that had been a prison to their Jewish forefathers. This was no vacation resort!

### B. Leave your \_\_\_\_\_ up to God (2:19-23)

Here we read of the third time that an angel visits Joseph. Joseph is told to bring Jesus back to that place where the people had first wagged their heads at Mary. That very same town where the shame of an unexplained pregnancy had made the local headlines. Probably the most difficult place to share Jesus is at \_\_\_\_\_.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Joseph is a clear example of the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ really do speak louder than \_\_\_\_\_. Although none of Joseph’s words are recorded for us in the Bible we can still confidently conclude that he was a “righteous man.” We conclude this not because of what he said but what he did!

“A religion that gives \_\_\_\_\_, costs \_\_\_\_\_, and suffers \_\_\_\_\_, is worth \_\_\_\_\_.”

– Martin Luther