

The Cast of Christmas: Joseph

Psalm 130:7-8 ❖ Matthew 1:18-25

“Sleepless and bewildered but gloriously proud, the husband of Mary emerged from the stable and made his way to the census taker’s booth. For it was the decree of Imperial Rome, ordering a general census, that had brought them to Bethlehem. The angels’ song hummed through his heart and timed his steps with its rhythm: his fine bronze face was radiant with the wonder of the night. But enrollment blanks and reckonings kept the census taker busy, and all he saw was another peasant standing in line ...”

(“Just Another Boy,” Bruce Barton)

Joseph’s First Child

Dads, what are some things you remember about the birth of your first child?

What are some things Joseph might have remembered about the birth of his first Child?

Why did God choose Joseph?

1st Century Jewish Marriages

- 1) **Engagement** -
- 2) **Betrothal** -
- 3) **Wedding** -

Joseph’s Challenges

- 1) His fiancée was **pregnant**. (Matthew 1:18a)
- 2) The baby was not **his**; Mary “was found to be with child through the **Holy Spirit**” (v. 18b).
- 3) “Because Joseph was a **righteous** man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to **divorce** her **quietly**” (v. 19).

Joseph’s Dream

“The Lord **confides** in those who fear Him” (Psalm 25:14).

“An **angel** of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a **dream**” three times. (Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 19)

In the first dream, Joseph was told “not to be afraid to take Mary home as his **wife**, because what was conceived in her was from the **Holy Spirit** and to name his son **Jesus**, because He was going to save His people from their **sins**” (Matthew 1:20-21).

“He **Himself** will redeem *Israel* from all their **sins**” (Psalm 130:8).

Joseph’s Obedience

- 1) “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had **commanded** him and took Mary home as his **wife**” (v. 24).
- 2) “But he had no **union** with her until she gave birth to a **son**” (v. 25a).
- 3) Joseph “gave Him the name **Jesus**” (v. 25b).

“So Joseph also **went** up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to **Bethlehem** the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David” (Luke 2:4).

Joseph’s obedience gives us a glimpse into what it means to be “a **righteous** man” and gives us insight into why God chose him to be Jesus’ **earthly** father.

Joseph’s Heart

When God entered the world as a **man**, Joseph took Jesus into his heart and his home.

Who are the “Josephs” in your life? Who has God worked through to bring Jesus into your heart and your home?