

Getting CHRISTMAS Right

#1 Joseph: Unquestioning Obedience

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

First century people had varying responses when they heard news of the arrival of the promised Messiah. Joseph's response was UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE.

Matthew 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ **When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.***

1. UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE in the wake of being **BLINDSIDED** by Devastating News
2. UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE in the face of Suspicion, Misunderstanding, and **RIDICULE** by Others
3. UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE arising from Deep **TRUST** in God's Word
4. UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE prompted by Accepting his Role in God's **REDEMPTIVE PLAN**

Later, when Joseph was told that young Jesus' life would be threatened, he again didn't hesitate to obey the word of the Lord...

Matthew 2:13 *Now when [the Magi] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ **And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt.***

5. UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE despite it resulting in Major **DISRUPTION** of his Lifestyle
6. UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE while Expectantly **AWAITING** his Next Instructions

JESUS, OUR SUPREME EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE!

Hebrews 5:7 *In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, **he learned obedience** through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...*

Philippians 2:8 *And being found in human form, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

In what decision is God calling YOU to obey Christ out of love for Him?

John 14:21 *Whoever has my commands and obeys them, **he is the one who loves me.***