

STRONG WOMEN, MIGHTY MEN

Part 7.0 Joseph, the husband of Mary Matthew 1

- Joseph exhibited GRACE, KINDNESS in response to perceived wrongs vs. 18-19
 - ‘*Mary had been betrothed to Joseph*’ – she betrayed their CERTIFICATE of marriage
 - ‘*send her away*’ – he decided to let her go, to DISMISS her
 - ‘*not disgrace her*’ – to make a show of her, to publically MOCK her, to openly expose
 - ‘*secretly*’ – DISCREETLY, a stealth maneuver
- Joseph exhibited TEMPERANCE in the midst of personal crises vs. 20
 - ‘*considered*’ – He PONDERED, he reflected, he slept on it
 - Opposite of Rash – hasty, impulsive, IMPETUOUS
- Joseph exhibited COMPLIANCE to the point of personal risk vs. 24
 - ‘*took Mary as his wife*’ – Completed the wedding CEREMONY
 - A PATTERN of quick obedience – *immediately, while it was still night, same day*
- Joseph exhibited SELF-CONTROL instead of pushing personal privileges vs. 25
 - ‘*kept her a virgin*’ – for PURITY purposes
 - Personal SELF-DISCIPLINE and RESTRAINT for the greater good

Auburn Grace Community Church – December 1st, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions – December 1, 2019

Matthew 1:24-25 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

QUICK REVIEW

1. How available are you to being used by the Holy Spirit? Availability has to do with time and priorities. Compare and contrast these two areas. What adjustments can you make to be more available to the Holy Spirit?
2. Are you changeable enough to be used by the Holy Spirit? Agreeability has to do with courage and changeability. What is the relationship between these two qualities? What can you do to be more compliant to the promptings of the Holy Spirit?

MY STORY

1. Describe a time when you were faced with a crisis and had to make a difficult decision. Did “sleeping on it” change your outlook? What do you think would’ve happened if you reacted rashly?
2. Did someone ever share with you a story that was difficult for you to believe? How did you view the character of the news-bearer? What did you learn about yourself after finding out the story was true?
3. Share about a situation where you had to make a tough decision. You didn’t have all the facts and instead your decision was based on the trust you had in someone else’s character.

GOING DEEP (read Matthew 1:18-25)

1. The virgin birth is still discredited to this day. What would the implications have been if Mary had become pregnant with Jesus by someone other than the Holy Spirit? (see Romans 3:23)
2. In reading the above passage, list the references to Joseph’s righteousness. What can you say about his temperance? Why would he go against Mosaic Law and risk his reputation (the stigma of illegitimacy) for the rest of his life? (see Leviticus 20:10)
3. Did Mary tell Joseph of the miraculous conception? Did Joseph find Mary’s story hard to believe? Or did he accept it readily? Was his decision to break the engagement because he doubted her word, or was it because he considered himself unworthy to marry the mother of the Messiah?
4. At what point in the account of Jesus’ birth, do you think Joseph came to terms with the fact that he would be responsible for being the “step-father” to God’s child? Explain.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?