

## **SERMON - JOSEPH: AN IDEAL FATHER**

**John 6: 42a**

**And they said, is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph?**

### **Introduction**

It is wonderful for a man to be chosen “Father of the Year,” but it is still more wonderful to be trusted with the rearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. If they seek out the very finest man in the realm to be the tutor of princes, how much more important would be the man who would care for the Son of God? What an awesome responsibility. What sterling character Joseph must have had to have been chosen to be an example for the Messiah. What wisdom and understanding he must have had to guide the Holy Child. What patience, piety, nurturing skills, and tactfulness were required as the Boy grew to maturity and the fullness of His deity was revealed. (Remember, Jesus was both human and divine.)

Joseph had at least six children of his own, besides Jesus, the Son of Mary and the Holy Spirit. Four boys are mentioned by name and there are at least two girls whose names are not given. Two of these boys, James and Jude, had prominent places in the life of the church. James came to be the chief elder in the Jerusalem church. Some early church historians, the patristic writers, said that James was so devout that his knees became calloused as a camel’s from kneeling in prayer. James penned the book which bears his name, which balances spirituality with practicality. James eventually died the death of a martyr.

Jude was also a man of deep faith and loyalty and urged the Christians of his day to earnestly “contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” This was declared in the book that bears his name.

God only knows how many of the fine things these sons wrote in the books of James and Jude were heard first from their father, Joseph.

Let’s look at three of the many qualities of Joseph and gather inspiration and affirmation because many of the men of Antioch-Lithonia are already doing these things in a magnificent way.

### **Exposition**

#### **1. Joseph Was A Great Provider.**

(A Hard-Working Carpenter.)

**2. Joseph Was A Great Protector.**

(He Escaped To Egypt To Protect Jesus.)  
(This Disrupted His Life.)

**3. Joseph Was A Great Priest.**

(Every Man Was Considered To Be The “Lay Priest” Of His Household.)  
(The Lay Priest Made Sure All Of The Ceremonial Requirements Of  
The Law Were Met By His Family.)

**(Any Man Who Did Not Fulfill This Role Was Considered A Sinner.)**

**Closing Thoughts**

**Thank God for Christian fathers. Their influence cannot be overstated. Boys learn how to properly treat girls and women by observing their father’s loving behavior. Girls learn how to be valued and to be treated with respect by the healthy relationship with their Christian fathers. Thank God for men like Joseph. We have a lot of them at Antioch-Lithonia. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!**

**Related Scriptures**

**Matthew 13:55**

**Mark 6:3**

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