

## **SERMON: JOSEPH A GODLY MAN FULFILLING HIS DIVINE PURPOSE**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

**(18) Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. (19) Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. (20) But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. (21) And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins. (22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (24) Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: (25) And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn Son: and he called His name Jesus.**

### **Introduction**

Of the many characters in the biblical record, Joseph, the earthly father of our Savior and Caleb are two of my favorites. Caleb supported Moses and when Joshua became the leader, he supported Joshua. Caleb never became envious of Joshua. Caleb never became the head leader, but he always supported the head leader. Joseph reared a child that was not his biological son. He and all good step-fathers are to be commended.

The business world has a term they call “best practices.” When they observe some company doing something exceptional, it is modeled as something that every similar company should duplicate. Right now, some experts think that Chick-Fil-A has the best practices for customer service in the fast-food industry. Publix is considered by many to have the best practices in customer service in the grocery industry. Joseph displayed the best practices in his relationship with Mary and her Son, our Savior. Let’s look again

at the character of Joseph. (I just preached about him in June of this year for Father's Day. The great truths from God's Word can never be exhausted.)

### **Exposition**

- 1. Joseph Was An Ordinary Man Who Allowed God To Use Him Mightily.**
- 2. Joseph Remained Decent, Thoughtful, And Loving In A Crisis.**
- 3. Joseph Obeyed God And Accepted Mary And Her Son.**
- 4. Joseph Knew God's Will Would Not Bring Him Into The Spotlight.**
- 5. Joseph Knew God's Will Is Only About God's Agenda – Not About His Own Personal Agenda.**

### **Closing Thoughts**

Joseph undergirded the birth and rearing of Jesus. He was a supportive husband and fulfilled his God-given role as provider and protector.

Because of Joseph, Mary was not stoned but was supported and protected.

Because of Joseph, what could have ruined Mary's good name now immortalized it.

Because of Joseph, what could have been called bad was now called blessed.

Because of Joseph, what could have been called sinful was called sacred and sanctified.

Because of Joseph, Jesus was able to fulfill His mission, which is to save us from our sins.

Joseph was a man of quiet faith.

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

### **Related Scriptures**

**Matthew 2:13; Luke 1:27; Luke 2:1-7; Luke 2:16; Luke 2:33; Luke 2:43; Luke 3:23; Luke 4:22; John 1:45; John 6:42**

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