

Joseph



“But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord ap-

peared 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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20-21 KJV

“Advent – A Monologue”

“I was a simple man living a quiet life in Nazareth. I worked as a carpenter and loved doing a good job. One day that I will never forget, I turned around and there was Mary. I stopped and reveled in the beauty of my future wife. She looked troubled and her thoughts seemed to be far off. She almost looked afraid as she approached me and I took her hands in mine.

“Then, she told me that she was with child. The words struck like a sharp knife into my heart. I dropped her

hands as if they were filled with leprosy. I had pledged my love to her in front of witnesses. I asked who the father was. I knew that I was not. She said an angel had appeared to her. She would have a son through the Holy Ghost.

“I turned my back on her and she ran out of the shop crying. I didn’t know what to do. By rights, I should take her before the Sanhedrin, divulge her shame and condemn her to be stoned. As I stood, a bright light shone and I heard a voice say, ‘Joseph, fear not for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.’ Then the light faded and I was alone again.

“Now, I had another problem. Who would believe us, two common people in the little town of Nazareth? I went to the temple and prayed. I listened as the Rabbi read ‘Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.’

“I realized that Mary was telling the truth. I was filled with joy and apprehension as I ran to Mary’s home. We prayed together. Little did we know what lay ahead, but we knew that we could face it together with the grace of God. We felt burning eyes as we talked and were seen in the streets of that small town. But armed with God’s courage, we set out to do what we were told, and follow the path He had prepared for us.

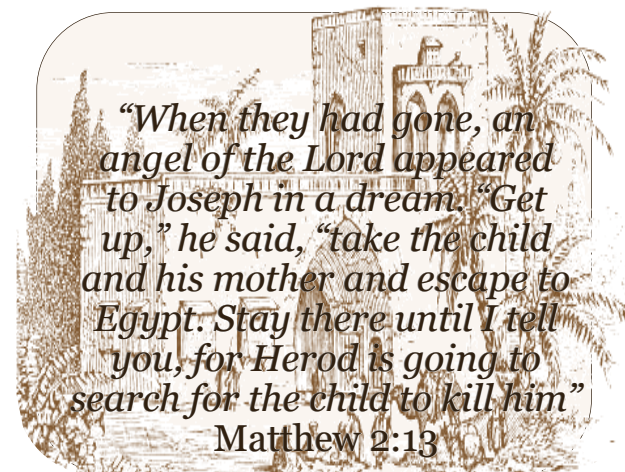
“I’m not saying the road was easy. It was not. I’m sure that people talked behind our back. How were they to

know everything that had happened?

“How could we expect them to believe that an angel had appeared to each of us. How were they to believe that we were the ones chosen to bring the long awaited Messiah into this world? We were poor peasants. Sure, our lineage could be traced back to David, but so could some of the other people. After all that was why all of us were summoned to go to Bethlehem and register.

“As we set off on the journey to Bethlehem, I’m sure some still wondered. That wasn’t the only time I was visited by an angel. After the birth of Jesus, an angel appeared to me and told me to take the young child and Mary to Egypt. Why Egypt? Would people believe another visit from an angel?

“And I often wonder when we didn’t return as soon as we registered what some people thought. If we had been chosen by God, why weren’t we going back to Nazareth so people could see this new King, the one that had been promised for so many years?



When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:39-40

“Eventually, we were able to go back to Nazareth. I was able to continue my work as a carpenter and teach the trade to my sons. Mary and I were blessed in many ways. We were doing God’s will and our other children would come to understand and realize that Jesus was special not only to them but to everyone. They would be supportive of Him and His ministry.

“The end of His young life was tragic, but we knew that He had come into this world to save us and although we didn’t understand everything, we knew that God had fulfilled this mission through our son. When I think back I realize we held in our hands the love of someone who was so great that He could save the entire world. We were so blessed.”

Notes: We don't hear much about Joseph but he had a lot of responsibility put on him. From the beginning his faith was tested. He had to accept the fact that Mary had conceived this child by the Holy Spirit. He was told by God to name the child, Jesus. He had the reasonability of taking care of Mary during the pregnancy. His age is often discussed as being older than Mary but we are not told that anywhere in the Bible and it was and is, not important.

For approximately 32 years Jesus was his son on earth and according to the Bible people thought of Jesus as one of the children of Mary and Joseph. The verses below summarize the times that Joseph is mentioned in the Bible and his responsibilities.

Joseph to name Jesus: “She will give birth to a son, and you (Joseph) are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

Joseph to take Jesus for baptism: “When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.” Luke 2:2

Joseph to take Mary and the child to Egypt for protection: “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” Matthew 2:13

Joseph takes family back to Galilee: “When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.” Luke 2:39

Joseph raises Jesus as his own son: “Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli,” Luke 3:23

“At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven.’ They said, ‘Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’” John 6:41

Can we understand why they were questioning? Would we?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, so often we forget the importance of Joseph in carrying out Your will for our lives. Help us to realize that although we also feel at times that we are unimportant, we know that You need each one of us to do our part to spread the Good News over the earth. Help us to realize that Your love, grace, and courage will always be with us as we step out to do Your will. Amen.

1. How would you react if you had been in Joseph’s situation?
2. What would be the reaction of people today if this would happen again?
3. Would we have the courage today to do what Joseph did; for what Mary went through?
4. How strong is your faith in the time of a crisis?
5. Luke tells us that they returned to Galilee after they had “done everything required by the Law of the Lord.” What do you think those requirements were?