

Joseph The Carpenter

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Matt. 1:18-25

Matt. 1:18-25, *“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. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 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. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”*

Today we will learn some practical lessons from Joseph.

Joseph was useful.

He was a carpenter, but we'll discuss more of that later.

He was useful to God. He was a descendent of David to Christ. (Matt. 1:1-16).

We need to be useful to God.

- Rom. 9:20-21, *“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”*
- 2 Tim. 2:19-21, *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto*

honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

What motivates your service?

Wendell Wilkie once asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he visited the President in his office in the White House, "Mr. President, why do you keep that frail, sickly man, Harry Hopkins, at your elbow?" The President said, "Mr. Wilkie, through that door flows daily an incessant stream of men and women who, almost invariably, wants something from me. Harry Hopkins wants only to serve me. That's why he is so near me!"

We need to examine our motives for serving Christ.

I hear people say that they go to a certain church because it gives when what they want. The purpose we go to church is to serve God.

- Matt. 18:20, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*
- John 12:26, *"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*
- Heb. 10:25-26, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. ~Christ or Judgment For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,"*
- Acts 20:7, *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."*
- 1 Cor. 11:23-29, *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him*

eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

- Phil. 3:3, "*For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."*

Joseph was compassionate.

He was compassionate for Mary. Matt. 1:18-19, "*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. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily."*

We should also be compassionate.

- Luke 10:33 in the story of the good Samaritan, "*But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,"*
- 1 Pet. 3:8, "*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."*

Joseph was afraid of doing something wrong.

He was willing to give up Mary rather than engage in the practice of doing something that was wrong.

We need to fear being involved with wrong.

- Matt. 10:28, "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*
- Heb. 4:1, "*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."*

Joseph was contemplative.

He did not take action before he thought about it. Matt. 1:20, "*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."*

We need to think before we perform our actions. Luke 14:27-33, *“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”*

Joseph was obedient.

He kept his wife, Mary, and named the baby Jesus.

- Matt. 1:21, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*
- Matt. 1:24-25, *“Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”*

We have to be obedient to Christ.

- Heb. 5:9, *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him,”*
- John 14:23, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”*

Joseph had an honorable occupation.

Carpentry. Matt. 13:55, *“Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?”*

Some occupations are not so honorable, and Christians should avoid those. Even good occupations can be used wrongfully.

Rom. 12:17, *“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”*

Example. A storekeeper went away for the day and left his clerk in charge. A customer came in and asked a favor of the clerk that meant he would have to do something dishonest. When the clerk refused, the customer said, "You can do it if you want to because your boss is out." The clerk looked the man straight in the face, and said, "You are mistaken. My boss is Jesus Christ, and He is never out."

Conclusion.

We can learn many things by studying the lives of God's people.

