

THE FORGOTTEN MAN AT CHRISTMAS: JOSEPH

(Matthew 1:18-2:23)

I. His PERSON

A. He was a GODLY man (Matt. 1:18-19)

1. Discovered Mary's PREGNANCY in the midst of their BETROTHAL period
2. Decided on a quiet DIVORCE after careful DELIBERATION
 - a. Demonstrated RIGHTEOUSNESS—unwilling to marry an IMPURE woman
 - b. Demonstrated MERCY—unwilling to have Mary EXECUTED for FORNICATION
 - c. Demonstrated LOVE—unwilling to subject Mary to PUBLIC DISGRACE

B. He was an OBEDIENT man (Matt. 1:20-25)

1. Received a message in a DREAM from an ANGEL
 - a. Called Joseph “son of DAVID”
 - b. Told Joseph to MARRY his betrothed
 - c. Told Joseph to NAME the child JESUS
2. Responded in FAITH and OBEDIENCE

II. His PARENTING

A. During Jesus' INFANCY (Matt. 2:1-15)

1. Relocated the family to BETHLEHEM
2. Received a WARNING in a dream to move to EGYPT
3. Responded in FAITH and OBEDIENCE

B. During Jesus' CHILDHOOD and BEYOND (Matt. 2:19-21)

1. Persevered in OBEYING God's INSTRUCTIONS
 - a. Summoned in a dream to RETURN to ISRAEL
 - b. Cautioned in a dream to AVOID JUDEA
2. Provided for Jesus a GODLY training (Luke 2:51-52)
3. Prepared Jesus for SKILLED LABOR (Mark 6:3)

III. His PRIORITIES

A. He BELIEVED GOD enough to risk forfeiting all other RELATIONSHIPS

1. Took Mary as his WIFE
2. Reared a child NOT HIS OWN

B. He BELIEVED GOD enough to ORDER his LIFE around JESUS