

DECIDING TO WAIT UPON THE LORD

MATTHEW 1:18-28

Text:

Introduction:

Have you ever had times in your life where your perception of what would be, changed?

That no doubt was the case with Joseph.

Remember:

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Note

1. THE WORRY OF JOSEPH (VS. 18-19)

Matthew 1:18-19

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 publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Note:

It is obvious as we read the text that Joseph was in a quandary over the news that Mary was with child.

All of us have times in our lives when unexpected news sets us back.

Note:

A. The Integrity of Joseph

- He was a pure man – vs. 18
- He was a just man – vs. 19

Note:

Betrothal was, in Jewish law, valid marriage. In giving Mary up, therefore, Joseph had to take legal steps to effect the separation.

B. The Interest of Joseph (vs. 19b)

Note:

He did not want to put her away publicly.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵Doth not behave itself

unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

C. The Intention of Joseph (vs. 19c)

Joseph was not willing to make her a public example.

2. THE WAITING OF JOSEPH (VS. 20-23)

Matthew 1:20-23

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.

A. He Waited Thoughtfully (vs. 20a)

Note: God revealed everything Joseph needed to know.

- The Conception was Miraculous (vs. 20b)

Luke 1:35

³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall

overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Note:

The modernist who denies Christ's virgin birth denies His eternal Godhead and deity. Either He is God, or He is an imposter.

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

- The Purpose was Salvation (vs. 21)

Note:

His name reveals his divine purpose to save or deliver the world from the power and penalty of sin.

Quote:

The apostle Paul said, “Jesus came to save sinners of whom I am chief.”

- The Event was Prophesied – How, When, Where

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Daniel 9:25

²⁵ Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Micah 5:2

² But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

3. THE WITNESS OF JOSEPH

Matthew 1:24-25

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.

A. He Accepted the Will of God - He took Mary
(vs. 24)

Note:

He obeyed immediately.

Remember:

“The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master.”

Luke 2:1-5

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ² (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

B. He Accepted the Purpose of God – He called Him Jesus (vs. 25)

- He believed God
- He bore the reproach

It took great faith for Joseph to believe God's message in the dream. His love for God and for Mary made him willing to “bear reproach” for Christ.

Close:

Deciding To Wait on the Lord...

We must believe God and be willing to bear the reproach that may come.