



**JOSEPH DID YOU  
KNOW?**

# Joseph Did You Know?

## Matthew 1:18-25

At Christmastime, Mary gets most of the press after Jesus. It's understandable, since she was the only virgin to give birth. But Joseph is rather sidelined. So today we'll try to see the announcement of Jesus' birth through his eyes. His range of emotions follows a stressful gamut. But his example is helpful to any who receive hard-to-hear news.

# I. THE CULTURE

Patriarchal, male-dominated

Women important, but not celebrated as men  
were

Besides Jesus, Mary the center of the Christmas  
story

Matthew presents Joseph's unique perspective

# I. THE CULTURE

Luke presents the genealogical record of Mary

Genealogical record of Joseph: The legal qualifications for Jesus as Messiah

The problem

We fail to see it uniquely from a different perspective

## II. Excitement "Mary was betrothed to Joseph" (v. 18a)

Mary a common name: after Miriam, Moses' sister

Betrothed

Two stages

*Kiddushin* - betrothal

*Chuppah* - marriage ceremony

## II. Excitement "Mary was betrothed to Joseph" (v. 18a)

When the children were young

Parents signed a contract

Groom's parents paid a dowry

Betrothal ceremony

About one year prior to the marriage ceremony



## II. Excitement "Mary was betrothed to Joseph" (v. 18a)

Legally married

No physical contact whatsoever (consummate after the wedding)

Formal commitment, like marriage

Joseph a carpenter

### III. Shock "Mary...was found with child" (v. 18b)

Joseph had never touched her

No physical relationship at all

Joseph: a just man

Mary had three months to process the news:

"And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house." (Luke 1:56)

Joseph had no time to process



# IV. Bewilderment "Not wanting to make her a public example" (v. 19)

Joseph a just man; a man of integrity

Joseph's three choices

Publicly shame her

Divorce privately

Get married

Today there would be another option: abortion

Joseph decided to divorce her privately

# V. Fear "Do not be afraid" (v. 20)

Wrestling with thoughts, weary, fell asleep

Joseph's dream

Different sort of dream

Probably the angel Gabriel

"Do not be afraid" (v. 20)

## V. Fear "Do not be afraid" (v. 20)

In Greek, stop an action already going on

Better translation: "Stop your fearfulness"

The angel gave Joseph essentially the same  
message given to Mary

## VI. Resolve "Joseph...did as the angel of the Lord commanded" (v. 24)

Courage and Commitment: He is going through with the marriage

He made a lifelong commitment

He took her to Bethlehem

Flees to Egypt for two years

1. Gives up his career and life in Nazareth
2. Lives as a fugitive

# VI. Resolve "Joseph...did as the angel of the Lord commanded" (v. 24)

Returns to Nazareth to start again

1. Gossip never ended

"We were not born of fornication;" (John 8:41)  
(intimating Jesus was)

"We have one Father—God"

We know who our Father is

Implied Jesus did not know who His father was

## VII. Application

Families work best when Jesus is at the center

The best decisions are often the hardest

The world needs more men of integrity

What does your life revolve around?

Jesus or self?