

Remnant Life Church

December 12, 2021

“Why Joseph?”

Matthew 1:18-25

- The story of Joseph receives very little attention compared to the birth of Jesus and His mother, Mary
- But it is a story of great character and courage
 - Courage to do the right thing
 - Courage to do the difficult thing
 - Courage to do the selfless thing
- Joseph is, of course, listed in the 2 genealogies of Jesus presented in the first chapter of Matthew and the 3rd chapter of Luke
 - But they are not identical though you would think they have to be
 - Matthew’s account begins with Abraham and ends with Jesus through the David’s son Solomon
 - He does this in 3 groups of 14 generations
 - For a total of 41 names
 - Luke’s goes in reverse beginning with Jesus but goes through Heli, the father of Mary, and goes all the way back to the first man Adam
 - He gives 77 names (remember, Luke is a man of expansive detail, just like his account of the birth of Jesus)
 - There is a reason Matthew and Luke do not go through the same bloodline
 - It was important for the readers to understand that both Joseph and Mary were of the line of David
 - This was done to defend the prophesy of Jeremiah, given 600 years before Jesus’ birth, that He would be of the line of David and heir to the throne of Israel ([Jer 23:5](#))
- But, in spite of that royal connection, not one spoken word of Joseph is recorded in the Bible
 - And after the story of Jesus at the age of 12 being found in the temple, Joseph is never mentioned again.
 - He obviously was not around at the time of the crucifixion since Jesus asks John to take of His mother
 - He is truly the forgotten player in the story of Jesus’ birth, yet he was invaluable to what God accomplished
- I want to take just a few moments this morning to recognize what we can learn from the story of Joseph – a man of great courage
 1. God gives courage to ordinary people
 - a. It is common and understandable to look at the people of the Bible as superheroes
 - i. Never making a mistake

- ii. Always prepared and ready to serve God no matter the situation
- iii. Always making the perfect decision
- iv. Filled with confidence
- b. But the fact is they were normal, ordinary people until God entered the picture
 - i. David was a shepherd-boy playing his instrument and writing songs while he tended the herd
 - ii. Abraham and his family made idols
 - iii. Elisha was a farmer
 - iv. Joshua was a stone mason
 - v. Andrew, Peter, James, and John were fishermen
 - vi. Matthew was a crooked tax-collector
 - vii. Paul was a tentmaker and a bounty hunter
 - viii. Adam, well before God, he was just a pile of dirt
- c. When God comes into the picture, everything changes
 - i. He will give you what you need when He calls you to serve in a particular way
 - ii. A surrendered life to God means a life that is filled with His presence
 - iii. Then what must be done is not dependent on you, but on Him

2. God does extraordinary things through ordinary people

- a. *I Cor 1:26-29 - Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.*
- b. How did God, maker and ruler of the Universe, bring His one and only Son into the world?
 - i. On billowing clouds with thunder and lightning accompanied by legions of angels blowing trumpets and shouting His arrival?
 - ii. No – it was on a quiet spring evening in a backwater town of Bethlehem by two people from Nazareth
 - 1. That in and of itself was not even a place of notoriety (When Phillip told his brother Nathaniel that Jesus was from Nazareth Nathaniel said, “*Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?*” *John 1:46*)
 - iii. God uses the simplest ways to proclaim the most profound truths because He wants everyone to understand His message of mercy, grace, and love
- c. Take advantage of this time of year to share the love of Jesus with someone in your life
- d. People will listen more this time of year; more likely to come to church (invite for the 19th!)

3. God gives us courage to overcome our fears and doubts

- a. Do you think Joseph experienced some doubt after Mary broke the news to him?
- b. "What is going on here?"
 - i. He would have been filled with uncertainty
 - ii. He knew only one thing for certain – Mary was pregnant with a child that was not his
 - iii. Emotions would have been running wild
 1. But his character reined his emotions in and did not allow them to dictate his response
 2. Emotions are not bad; they were created in us by God
 3. But they were never intended to dominate and rule over us
- c. He had many options he could have used and all of them would have been justified
 - i. He could have had Mary shunned and cast out of the community
 - ii. He could have had her executed
 - iii. But only one was the right, best way to respond
- d. **Gal. 5:22-23** - *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*
- e. This is the path that Joseph took and why he was called a righteous man

4. God gives us courage to face the future

- a. In **Matt 1:20** Joseph was given a dream with very specific instructions
- b. God does not always communicate to through dreams
 - i. As a matter of fact we must be very careful regarding dreams
 - ii. Most often He speaks to our hearts through prayer
 - iii. He will speak through other people through wise counsel
 - iv. He will simply guide you through the circumstances
- c. In whatever way God chooses to speak to us our obedience is required just as Joseph was obedient (**Matt 1:24**)
- d. But, and this is very important, no matter the circumstances, we ALL have been given the same promises
 - i. **Heb 13:5** – *I will never leave you or forsake (abandon) you*
 - ii. **Rom 8:31** – *If God is for us, who can be against us?*
- e. This is why we should never fear the future!

- God gives courage to ordinary people
- God does extraordinary things through those ordinary people
- God gives us courage to overcome our doubts and fears
- God gives us courage to face the future

- Joseph was a silent yet central figure in God's plan of redemption for the world
 - The mighty works of God do not require notoriety
 - God does not need an advance man or someone to handle His press releases
- Have the faith to know that God will work in and through you (yes, you!) to accomplish His will

- Like Joseph it will often take great courage
- Hold to your character and desire to live in righteousness no matter the appearance of the circumstances you are dealing with
- We have His promises and HE IS FAITHFUL!