

**A MOMENT WITH JOSEPH**  
**JUNE 20, 2021**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Coming from a Jewish perspective, who would one choose as a guardian for his child if he knew he was dying?

- A devout Rabbi or Priest, to teach him the law.
- Someone well off to provide for his needs.
- Someone influential and respected in society.
- Someone experienced in rearing children.

God, in this position, chose Joseph.

- Wasn't a Rabbi or Priest.
- Wasn't well off.
- Wasn't influential in society.
- Wasn't experienced in rearing children.

**WHY JOSEPH? MATTHEW 1:18-19 (ESV)**

**1. A righteous man.**

- A.** Righteous means: just, having high standards, fair, interested in doing the right thing, honorable and good.
- B.** Joseph carefully observed the law, and valued his own reputation.
- C.** Unwilling to put her to shame: being betrothed meant they took vows, exchanged a dowry, and would need a divorce to dissolve the union. Joseph was getting ready for the wedding feast and consummation. All was going well until he learned Mary was pregnant.
- D.** Imagine the challenges.
  - According to the customs of that time, adultery would make her unmarriageable to Joseph or her lover. By marrying her, Joseph would compromise himself in the eyes of the law. His righteousness went deeper than the letter of the law. Joseph was honorable and wanted to do what was right.
  - The wrong thing, he decided, was to demand prosecuting her for adultery, and expose her to public disgrace. So, he decided to divorce her quietly. Quietly means to protect her as much as he could given the situation. At worst, she would have been executed publicly. **DEUTERONOMY 22:13-27 (NLT)** At best, she would have been shunned by society, could never remarry, and left to live at home with little chance for employment.

**2. A humble man. MATTHEW 1:20-25 (ESV)**

- A.** Once Joseph chose a plan of action, God revealed to him the truth about Mary's pregnancy. Joseph's reaction reveals his humility: he had a right by law to refuse to marry Mary.
- B.** Joseph didn't complain about not doing things his way:
  - He married her, wasn't intimate until the child that wasn't his was born. Cared for Jesus but was still poor, he gave up his rights, his needs and demands to honor God and serve His purposes and the needs of Mary and Jesus.
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**3. A pious man. LUKE 2:21-24, 39-41 (NLT)**

- A.** Pious means he was devout and reverent toward God. He made sure Jesus was circumcised, dedicated, and educated in the laws and commandments of God.
- B.** **LUKE 4:16 (NLT)** This was his custom or habit while growing up. Joseph was the model who shaped the life of Jesus.

**4. God's man.**

- A.** Joseph wasn't rich, powerful or brilliant, he was kind, humble, merciful, respectful to God, and brave.
- B.** When God needed a man to:
  - Build an ark, he chose Noah.
  - Create a nation to provide a Messiah, He chose Abraham.
  - Lead His people out of slavery, He chose Moses.
  - Be His Kings and Prophets, He chose men like David, Samuel and Isaiah.
  - Father His son, He chose Joseph.
- C.** What the world needs today is more men like Joseph:
  - Men who strive to be kind and merciful and lead their home through self-sacrifice and fidelity.
  - Men who stand in awe of God and endeavor to instill reverence for God in their children.
  - Men who model true Christianity for all to see and follow.

**CONCLUSION:**

A recent survey on college campuses revealed fathers were the primary influence in their lives (positive and negative). We need more Joseph's than ever before!