

**Father's Day Sermon**  
**God Chose a Father for His Son**  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Today is Father's Day.** As most of you know, I am not real big on *special* days (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grand Parent's Day, etc.) But on this Father's Day I am going to preach a Christmas sermon. **Although that is not exactly true, I am going to talk to you about a father who is very often overlooked, and only mentioned at Christmas.** I want to talk to about *Joseph*, the husband of Mary and the adopted father of Jesus.

**It seems to me that we often overlook the fact that although God, in His sovereignty, chose Mary to be the one who would give birth to the Son of God, that He also in His mighty providence chose Joseph to be a father to Jesus and to raise Him into manhood.** In other words, God chose both Mary and Joseph to be the parents of the Lord of glory.

**It seems to me this great truth demonstrates for us the role of a father is a very important role in the life of the family.** In other words, fathers are not only needed for the physical act of *conceiving* a child; God reminds us they are also needed for the spiritual act of *raising* a child. We know, of course, the child was conceived in the womb of Mary, "by the Holy Spirit" - a miracle took place so there was no need for a man to be involved in the conception. But God wants us to realize the importance of the father's role when it comes to *raising* and *developing* a child into adulthood.

**Let me just stop here and say a word to single parents here today.** Please don't for a moment think your children are beyond hope because their father is gone, or their mother is gone, let me assure that is not the case at all.

**In my years of ministry, I have witnessed single mothers, and single fathers, raise their children "in the nurture of the Lord" to be very successful in life and very successful in their walk with God.** But I also realize that single parents face many difficulties trying to bring some measure of balance between time, money, and schedules, and at the same time have a personal life. So single parents, today, we salute you, and may God bless you for your diligence.

Nevertheless, the normal pattern is for children to be raised with father and mother.

**So, Joseph was chosen.** And just as God had chosen a godly young woman to bring forth the child, so He chose a godly man to be the father. And what an inspiring model of fatherhood Joseph was.

So, on this Father's Day I want to share with you some of the traits God must have seen in Joseph that is still very much needed in today's fathers.

**The first, thing I want you to see is Joseph was a loving man.** Look again at verses 18-19, "This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly." The word I used for "engaged" is the word "betrothed," but the "betrothal" was much, much more than just an "engagement," it was a twelve-month binding contract between the couple and the couple's parents. **Why twelve months?** It was to make sure the bride was "pure" and within that time frame a pregnancy would show up.

**Luke's Gospel tells us that when the angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her of God's plans was astonished, perplexed, and afraid.** It was only after the angel had talked her through it did she seem to get some peace in the matter.

**The Bible does not tell us how Joseph learned Mary was pregnant – presumably to someone else.** Now news must have been a staggering blow to him. His bride-to-be had betrayed him. **In his mind, she had been "sleeping around."** Most fiancées would have exploded in vindictive rage. After all, according to the Old Testament Law he could have had her taken outside the city and stoned to death. **But he didn't.**

**Even before God revealed His plans Joseph's love and character is revealed.** The Bible tells us in verse 19 that Joseph "was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly." Before God's divine revelation Joseph didn't have any vengeance or bitterness in his heart. **Joseph was a kind man who must have truly loved Mary.**

**The second thing we see is that Joseph was a caring father.** Joseph's character is also revealed in how he cared for and impacted the life of Jesus. He protected Him from the hatred of Herod and eventually taught Him the trade of carpentry. **In other words, Joseph received as his own, the One whom the rest of the world would reject.**

**But, today, we are living in a time when we see men who are prepared to abandon their role and responsibility as father toward their children.** Men are opting out of the father role because of its costs, or because of the responsibility, or because of their irresponsibility. **But the Bible says in 1 Timothy 5:8,** "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever!"

**A child begins life united to his (or her) mother.** The child literally is fused into this mother's body. Even after birth, the infant is singularly dependent on his mother; she is the sound of his (or her) nourishment and security.

**In years gone by the job of raising infants and young children was traditionally delegated to the mother, while fathers represented "the world" outside the home.** However, in recent years fathers have come to be seen as capable of bonding very early with their infants. But while it is possible for men to bond with infants, such tender intimacy is rare.

**Children enter the world like tiny sponges, ready to absorb every little impression about themselves and their identity.** And sooner or later, maybe without ever saying it out loud, they wonder: "Am I special? Am I valuable? Am I good? Does anyone really love me?" Psychologists and psychiatrists have now discovered that fathers play a primary role in answering those questions.

**I am convinced one of the greatest tragedies of our present-day society is lost fathering.** I believe with all my heart that for many people the father-child relationship defines their entire lives. It affects their dating and marriage relationships, their degree of self-confidence, sexuality, and work performance.

Surely we need more men, like Joseph, who are caring fathers.

**The third thing we see is that Joseph was a man of faith and courage.** In a time when it seemed as if Joseph's life was coming unrivaled, he was willing to put aside his plans to follow God. Look again at verses 20-23, "As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. Joseph, son of David, the angel said, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means God is with us."

**There seems to be two things here: (1) Joseph was willing to listen to what the angel was actually saying to him; and (2) he obviously was familiar with the prophetic scriptures concerning the coming Messiah.**

Listen carefully, Ezekiel 18:9 says, "The just shall live by faith." Habakkuk 2:4 says, "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17 says, "The just shall live by faith." Galatians 3:11 says, "The just shall live by faith." Hebrews 10:38 says, "The just shall live by faith." But, now watch this, Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." **Child of God, faith and the**

**Word of God are eternally linked together.** Joseph was able to live by faith because he was grounded in the Word of God!

Time passes and Matthew 2:13-13 says, “An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother, the angel said. Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him. That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my Son out of Egypt.” **When God spoke Joseph immediately obeyed.** He closed up his business and left.

**It takes faith to pack your bags and head off to a foreign country with no prospects and no planning; simply on the basis that God said so.** He had a faith strong enough to obey God’s call on his life. He could have made excuses to stay where he was, but his faith caused him to say, “Yes.”

**The fourth thing we see is that Joseph was a man of worship.** Luke 2:41-42 says, “Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual.” It is obvious Joseph was regular in his worship, and he set the example for the rest of his family.

**Did you hear about the little boy who was playing on a Sunday morning while his Dad was in a lounge chair reading the paper?** And the father looked to the son and said, “Son, get yourself ready for Church.” The little boy asked, “Are you coming with me today Dad?” The man replied, “No, I’m not coming. But I want you to hurry up and get ready.” The little boy then said, “Did you used to go to Church when you were a boy, Dad?” He said, “I most certainly did!” As he walked away the boy mumbled, “Yeah, and I bet it won’t do me any good either!”

**It is true - our kids are watching our life and our faithfulness.**

**Father’s Day is a day set aside to honor our fathers, but my challenge to the fathers is to honor your family by being the kind of father God has ordained you to be!**

If you are not saved, why not today?

**Everyone please stand for prayer.**

Father,

Your Word is true. On this Father’s Day I want to honor You with my life as I walk by faith and not by sight. In Jesus’ name. Amen.