

# JOSEPH, THE JUST

Part 3 of See What God Has Done. Selected Passages.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. December 29, 2024.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT JOSEPH

### Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus.

- In some faith traditions, he is venerated as a saint, a man of heroic virtue and exceptional holiness.
- He is a relatable and exceptional role model for all Christians.
- Joseph the Just, a man who did the right things, at the right times, for the right reasons, at great cost to himself.

## JOSEPH'S GODLY OBEDIENCE

### Joseph obeyed God.

- It sounds so simple, but we all know it can be challenging at times.

### 1. Joseph was called a "righteous man" in Matthew 1:19.

- In the Jewish context, it means he followed God's law with a heart for God.

### 2. Joseph did what God's angel told him to do.

Matthew 1:20-25 (CSB) ... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her 25 but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

- Imagine how difficult it would have been to follow those instructions.

### **3. Joseph presented Jesus at the temple.**

- He obeyed God's law (Exodus 13) to present first-born sons to the Lord.

Luke 2:22-24 (CSB) And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord) 24 and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons).

### **Joseph's obedience was God's plan A to parent, provide for, and protect Jesus.**

- Until he was ready for his three year public ministry leading to the cross and resurrection. No Joseph, no Savior.
- Such obedience is not natural; it is by grace.

## **JOSEPH'S GODLY PARENTING**

### **1. Joseph married Mary.**

Matthew 1:24-25 (CSB) When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her 25 but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

### **2. Joseph gave his "son" a name.**

- That means he adopted him as his own.

### **3. Joseph circumcised Jesus in accordance with God's Law.**

Luke 2:21 (CSB) When the eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus — the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

### **4. Joseph dedicated Jesus at the Temple.**

- He ensured that Jesus would be the ideal man of God, fit to offer an atoning sacrifice for sin. He would be the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.

## **5. Joseph fled to Egypt with Mary and Jesus.**

- He protected him from Herod's deadly plans.
- He fulfilled ancient prophecy (Hosea 11:1), and ensured that Jesus became the faithful Son that Israel never was.

Matthew 2:13-15 (CSB) ... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. 15 He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: "Out of Egypt I called my Son."

## **6. Joseph took Jesus to the Passover festival.**

Luke 2:41 (CSB) Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.

## **7. Joseph equipped Jesus to become an excellent Bible teacher.**

Luke 2:40 (CSB) The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him.

Luke 2:46-47 (CSB) After three days, they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all those who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

## **8. Joseph taught Jesus to love God above all else**

Luke 2:48-50 (CSB) When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me? " he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house? " 50 But they did not understand what he said to them.

# CHRISTIAN OBEDIENCE

Adapted from <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-obedience.html>

Obedience is an essential part of the Christian faith. Jesus Himself was “obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8). For Christians, the act of taking up our cross and following Christ (Matthew 16:24) means obedience. The Bible says, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). A Christian who is not obeying Christ’s commands can rightly be asked, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46). Obedience means complying with everything God has commanded by his grace, through faith, with love.

We must beware of using a veneer of obedience to mask a sinful heart. The Pharisees in Jesus’ time relentlessly pursued acts of obedience to the Law, but they became self-righteous. Jesus rebuked them sharply: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which indeed appear beautiful outside... Even so you also appear righteous to men outwardly, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (Matthew 23:27–28).

Today, we are not called to obey the Law of Moses. That has been fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 5:17). We are to obey the “law of Christ,” which is a law of love (Galatians 6:2; John 13:34). Jesus stated the greatest commands of all: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matthew 22:36–40).

If we love God, we will obey Him. We won’t be perfect in our obedience, but our desire is to submit to the Lord and display good works. When we love God and obey Him, we naturally have love for one another. Obedience to God’s commands will make us light and salt in a dark and tasteless world (Matthew 5:13–16).