

## ***Father's Day: Joseph***

Outline By: Mark Knowles 6/17/18 AM

### **Introduction**

1. Happy Father's Day! Even though it is not as big as Mother's Day it still gives us the chance to honor those who lead and love their families through many of life's battles. Since my Mother's Day message last month in the evening service focused on Mary the mother of Jesus, I thought it would only be appropriate for us to take a thoughtful look at Joseph, the step-father of Jesus.
2. We must not be fearful, apologetic, or embarrassed with Joseph. We owe him a great debt of thanks for accepting the baby Jesus under a shadow, for his physical provisions, and for his spiritual guidance. In many ways Joseph was "quite a man."
3. Joseph is irreplaceable in the story of Jesus' birth and through his silent actions, Joseph teaches us three valuable lessons in fatherhood. The first lesson is...

### **I. Righteousness**

#### **a. Matthew 1:18-25**

- i. Joseph is introduced to us in the midst of a personal crisis. His bride to be has become pregnant. Heart-broken and betrayed, how should he respond? Shame? Stoning? No, he chose mercy (Matthew 1:19).

### **II. Responsibility**

#### **a. Matthew 1:20-25; 2:13-23; Luke 2:1-6**

- i. Joseph understood clearly what God expected of him and was ready to obey! He would take Mary to be his wife and suffer the cutting remarks of a child conceived prior to their wedding. He would obey in spite of the fact that this child of divine promise would be born under a cloud of adultery. He called his adopted son "Jesus," just as he was told to do. Joseph believed God, obeyed God, and accepted the responsibility that God had given him.
- ii. How much better would our world be if every father did the same thing?

### **III. Religion**

#### **a. Luke 2:39-41**

- i. Joseph was a devoutly religious man. In Jewish culture the father was not only the head of the house and the primary bread-winner, he was also the spiritual leader of the family.
- ii. You see, Joseph knew the Lord and his teachings. He obeyed everything in the Law of Moses to the best of his ability. Their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem demonstrates that Joseph was dedicated to seeking God leading his family into a deeper relationship with their heavenly Father.
- iii. Dads, you—more than anyone else in the world—are able to instill faith in your children. You—more than anyone else—are able to show them what a loving father looks like. You—more than anyone else can—give them the ability to trust and depend on their Father in heaven.