

THINK IT THROUGH

Deuteronomy 22:23-24: “If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, (v.24) you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death—the girl because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man’s wife. You must purge the evil from among you.”

- Have her _____ from the people.

Leviticus 18:20, 29: “Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor’s wife and defile yourself with her...

(v.29) “Everyone who does any of these detestable things—such persons must be *cut off from their people.*”

KEY LESSON: True love considers what is _____ for others.

Ephesians 5:28: “In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

2. He _____ God even when it was _____ to understand His _____.

Matthew 1:20-24: “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.”

KEY QUESTION: Was it an easy thing for Joseph to obey God and take Mary as his wife?

- To stay with Mary would reinforce the belief in the community that Joseph & Mary had sex outside of marriage.
- To suggest to the community that Mary is carrying a child while still a virgin would be laughable.

KEY LESSON: God never said following him would be _____!

3. He was a man of _____.

Matthew 1:25: “But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

KEY QUESTION: Why did Joseph keep from sexual relations with Mary even after they were married?

ANSWER: To maintain Mary’s _____.

4. He was a man of _____.

Matthew 2:13-15: “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” (v.14) So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, (v.15) where he stayed until the death of Herod.”

5. He was a man who _____ to God & _____ his _____.

Matthew 1:24: “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.”

Matthew 2:13-14: “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” (v.14) So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt...”

Luke 2:22-24: “When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (v.23) (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), (v.24) and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:39: “When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Joseph was the quiet man of the Christmas story, but his life still speaks loud and clear today as he challenges us to be like him.

CHRISTMAS 2009 Today’s Message:
“JOSEPH: The Quiet Man of Christmas”
Pastor Cory Anderson / Sunday December 20, 2009

INTRODUCTION:

Why is Joseph the quiet man of the Christmas story?

- He’s mentioned in Matthew 1-2 & Luke 2 during the birth of Jesus.
- He is mentioned in Luke 2:41-52 when Jesus was 12 years old.
- He is not mentioned alive again.

1. He was more _____ about Mary than _____.

Matthew 1:18-19: “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. (v.19) Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

KEY QUESTION: What were Joseph’s options?

- Have her _____ to death.

Leviticus 20:10: “If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.”