

Joseph: Lessons from a Father – Dec. 15, 2021

Many life lessons are shown in Joseph's story. Applicable to all.

7 Lessons:

Matt. 1:19 – “Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

- 1** - When you have a choice, **choose kindness**.
 - **Eph. 4:32** – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- 2** - Keep personal issues **personal**, not public.
 - **1 Pet. 4:8** – “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”
- 3** - Take your **time** with big decisions; don't make rash judgments.
 - **James 1:5** – GWT – “If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you. God is generous to everyone and doesn't find fault with them.”

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

- 4** - When God speaks to you, **listen**. Be willing. Open.
 - Don't rationalize or analyze it.
 - He tuned out the voices of society, tuned in the voice of God.
 - Listen to the “still, small voice.” Pay attention to dreams.
- 5** - When you've heard God's voice, be **obedient**.
 - Joseph still had a choice to make. He chose God's plan.
 - Life had to feel out of control, but He gave God control.
 - Look to God for Guidance, not your own plans & whims.
- 6** - Choose to Biblically love the people in your life.
 - **1 Cor. 13:7** – “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (Eng Std Ver)
 - Believe in your loved ones, hope for them, support them.
 - Joseph could've buckled under social pressure, but he chose to keep loving Mary.

Matt. 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.’ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.”

7 - Protect the ones you love.

- Pay attention to the red flags & warning signs.
 - Joseph moved his family 2x to protect them.
- Protecting is a characteristic of God, our Father:
 - **Psalm 5:11** – “But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy.”
 - God is love, and He protects us. Follow that example.
- **1 Cor. 13:7 – NIV** – “[Love] always **protects**, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”
 - **Greek** word for “protects” is **stegai**, literally means “**to cover**”
 - **Means:** watch out for others; best interest at heart. Give warnings & advice. **Cover in love**, don’t smother.
 - **Joseph** planned to keep the matter quiet – to **cover** over what he saw as a fault in Mary; **protect** her from public shame.
 - We should do the same for each other.
- In protecting his family, being obedient - they end up where they need to be – **Nazareth**. Full circle. Back home.
 - Do what God puts in your heart. Let Love guide you.
 - Let the lessons from Joseph’s story inspire you.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated. Jan. 5, 2022

Song of the week: “**Mary and Joseph’s Song**”- Marcia Boland