

The Journey: A Season of Reflections

Based on An Advent Study by Adam Hamilton

Lesson #2: Joseph of Bethlehem

Key Story:

Joseph's decision
(Matthew 1:18-24)

READ: (Matthew 1:18-24)

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 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.

²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

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

~~ Watch Video ~~
Joseph of Bethlehem

Reflections:

- Bethlehem was a small farming village. The name Bethlehem means “House of Bread”.
- Joseph was a righteous man. He was compassionate toward Mary even when he was well within the Law of Moses to treat her with no compassion.
- Joseph is a model here for making decisions and dealing with doubts. Pray about it, carry it as a question, pester God about it. This is the story of Joseph’s utterly unique vocation, as foster-father of the Son of God.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever struggled over making a decision, then, slept on it and completely changed your decision at daybreak?
2. Why did God choose Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus?
3. Do you believe God speaks to us in day dreams and night dreams? Why or why not?

This Week:

I will listen for the angels that God may send my way.