

# HOPEcommunity.

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## Trust and Obey... The Life of Joseph - Stepfather of Jesus December 12, 2015

<http://www.iamsecond.com/seconds/stephen-baldwin/>

### The Announcement To Mary

- Mary was the wife of Joseph and the biological mother of Jesus. While a virgin, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced the coming birth of Jesus.

**Luke 1:26-38 NIV** <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> **to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph**, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. **So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.** <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail." <sup>38</sup> **"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."** Then the angel left her.

### What's it like to be second chair, in the background, unnoticed – yet responsible?

- There are some facts that we know about Jesus' earthly family. His parents were named Joseph and Mary.
- Joseph was the husband of Mary but not the biological father of Jesus. The New Testament makes this quite clear.

### Matthew 1:18-25 NIV

#### 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. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

- There are not many facts recorded about Joseph in the four gospels. He is mentioned only with respect to the events surrounding Jesus' birth, flight to Egypt, return to Galilee. We find Joseph obeyed the Lord without question during this time.

### The Episode In The Temple

- The only other reference to him is the episode regarding Jesus teaching at the temple at age twelve.

**Luke 2:47-50 NIV** <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? **Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.**" <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

- It is interesting to note that Joseph is not mentioned by name in this account neither is there any record of him saying anything to Jesus. The account speaks of Jesus' parents. Mary calls Joseph "Jesus' father" however Jesus corrects her when He emphasizes who His real Father is. This is the last we hear of Joseph.

#### **Joseph Was Not Around For Jesus' Public Ministry**

- Joseph is not mentioned as being around when Jesus began His public ministry. He is conspicuous by His absence. Almost everyone agrees that he had died before the time Jesus revealed Himself to the world. We know nothing of the circumstances surrounding his death.
- Is His Death Indicated? There may be an indication in Scripture that Joseph would never live to see Jesus' public ministry. When the elderly man Simeon spoke to Joseph and Mary about their newborn son we find the following said.

**Luke 2:33-35** <sup>33</sup> The *child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.* <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "**This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,** and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

- He predicted that a sword would pierce Mary's soul concerning Jesus but Simeon said nothing about Joseph. This may be an indication that Joseph would not be around to see Jesus rejected and crucified by the people whom He came to save.

#### **Learning to Accept God's Call and Plan...**

- What thing(s) has God asked you to do that you've been running from?
- Have you been obeying, yet are resentful in that obedience?

## **Announcements:      [www.hopecommunitysite.com](http://www.hopecommunitysite.com) 705-812-2833**

**Morning Prayer** Monday to Friday 9 to 10 am at the church

**Woman's Walking/Exercise Group** – Monday's 7:00 pm at the church (No group on 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> for the holidays)

**Mom's Hangout** – Wednesdays 10-11:30 am... A time for Moms and kid's to hang out and get to know each other.

**God Squad Jr. High:** Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Students grades 6-8 are invited to this great program.

**Sr. High Youth:** Thursdays: 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Students grades 9-12

**Good Food Box** – Orders on the first Monday of each month from 3-6 pm and pick up on the third Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables... Small box \$10, Large box \$15

**Communion Lunch Service – First Sunday of each month** Service (10:00 am) of each month as part of the morning service. Invite a friend and bring food to share in this pot luck style meal.

**Christmas Eve Service** – Thursday, December 24th 5:00 pm... A one hour beautiful candle light service reflecting on the greatness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hot apple cider will be served. A great night to invite friends and family so that they can experience the truth of Christ in the Christmas season

**\*\*\* Pick up your free copy of the *For God so Loved Christmas Devotional* \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Invite Family & Friends to our Christmas Eve Service! \*\*\***