

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
MESSIAH'S FATHER: A RIGHTEOUS MAN
Matthew 1:18-25

Fatherhood has fallen on hard times in our day - and two whole generations or more and countless children are paying the price. Learn from Joseph. Joseph is often neglected in our thoughts about Christ's birth. But the Holy Spirit led Matthew to begin his account of His birth with Joseph and to declare that he was a "righteous [or "just"] man" (1:19). This makes Joseph important.

How does Jesus speak to us today through Joseph?

1. Was Joseph Jesus' Father?

- a. Joseph was NOT Jesus' father in the physical sense.
Mary was a virgin; the Holy Spirit caused her to conceive the eternal Son of God by a miracle (the "Incarnation").
- b. BUT in two very important ways Joseph was Jesus' father:
 - 1) He was Jesus' legal father (Matthew 1:1-17)
This established our Lord's legal claim to David's throne, fulfilling prophecies like Isaiah 9:6,7.
 - 2) Joseph did for Jesus what a father does: loved, protected, provided for, raised and taught him, and was faithful to His mother.
- c. When the Father sent His Son into the world, "born of a woman," He provided for Him to suitable parents, prepared by His for their vital role.
God will not use any of us to parent a Messiah,
but do we want to be used by Him to raise godly servants of His?
Joseph is a model for fathers.

2. Joseph's Righteousness

- a. He was governed by God's righteous Law.
- b. He was merciful & compassionate, not self-righteousness & condemning.
- c. He believed and obeyed God's Word - as spoken by the angel.
- d. He was willing to bear shame for Christ.
- e. He sacrificed personal privilege for Christ.
- f. He believed God's promises; they were enough for Him.

3. Joseph's Righteousness & the Righteousness of His Son

Joseph was a sinner (Romans 3:23) whose righteousness reflects the greater and perfect righteousness of his Son & Savior - the source of his righteousness.

- a. You need Christ's righteousness to be right with God,
Christ's righteousness is God's gift to all who believe in Christ.
- b. Then you can learn from Joseph how to be righteous like his Son,
and pray that God will use you, too.