

12/18/2009

Dear Friends at Rolling Acres Alliance,

"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Matt.. 1:20, (ESV)

There is an often overlooked person in the Christmas story. We know of course about Mary, Baby Jesus, the Wise Men, etc. Only a little bit is mentioned about Joseph. Yet, what is mentioned of him speaks volumes. God in His kindness to Joseph sends an angel to speak to him in a dream. After the dream, Joseph obeys God and marries Mary and does not divorce her as he had been planning on doing.. Jesus, as it turns out, is entrusted to be loved and cared for by a man of faith in God and obedience to Him. All that we know about Joseph is what is told in Jesus' birth story. He was a carpenter, he was a righteous man, he was a man of faith and obedience to God. It was his actions that told us these things. He didn't write a tell-all book about what it was like to be Jesus' earthly dad. The TLC channel didn't follow the family to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth and then escort them on their escape to Egypt. Instead, Joseph did what God told him to do and trusted that God would work it all out. This is what makes His life to speak to us. There was a lot more riding on Joseph than we often give him credit. Had he done anything differently, any little thing, the Christmas story would not be the salvation story that it is today. Could God have thus fixed it and worked it out? Absolutely. But it was Joseph who followed God's will (with some help and prompting from the Lord, just like we all need) and the salvation story came about as God desired for it to happen. His faith and obedience preserved the Gospel message for future generations, even before Jesus went to the cross.

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My point?

1. Our faith and obedience to God have big ramifications not only for us but for those around us and for those who follow after us.
2. We don't have to do big flashy things to serve God and to be in His will, we just have to do what He wants us to do.
3. God will prompt us according to His will, we need to listen to Him. And don't feel bad if you are confused about God's will! Imagine what Joseph was thinking and feeling when Mary showed up pregnant and claiming it was God's child!
4. Thank God for the miracle that Christmas truly is in our lives!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Andy