



THE WORD *Alive*
The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

Joseph... the I-MAN
Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23

Matthew 1:18—25 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." 24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *her* as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 2:13 – 23 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." 14 And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son." 19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 20 "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." 21 And he arose and took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned *by God* in a dream, he departed for the regions of Galilee, 23 and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Joseph was the i-mana man of integrity in the face of challenging circumstances!

integrity seeks understanding

Mt. 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*

Joseph sought to understand the truth of the unfolding events in order to respond in a timely and appropriate manner.

integrity demonstrates humility

Mt. 1:19 *And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly.*

Joseph did not exercise his "rights" but placed the well being of Mary ahead of his own personal interests.

integrity pursues obedience

Mt. 1:24 *And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

Ultimately Joseph had to choose to obey God despite all challenges and difficulties.

integrity finds fulfillment

Mt 2:23 *and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."*

Joseph realized both a personal fulfillment and the fulfillment of God's plan by being a man of integrity.

challenge

Are you an I-man or woman? That is the message of Christmas from Joseph:
...to be a person of integrity who seeks understanding with humility and then exercises Godly obedience.

To commit yourself to the pursuit of integrity will bring a deep sense of fulfillment in life and honor your Lord in the process.