



A Good Man- Matthew 1:18-27

Proverbs 22:1 NIV A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed (respect or admire) is better than silver or gold.

- When people hear your name mentioned, what do they immediately think of you?
 - This speaks of your reputation and the character you possess inside
 - It identifies who you are from a moral and ethical standpoint

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- When people hear your name mentioned, what do they immediately think of you?
 - Essentially it is what you are all about
 - A “good name” really speaks to your integrity
 - It’s about your reputation and the character you possess inside

Proverbs 22:1 NIV A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed (respect or admire) is better than silver or gold.

- Essentially it is what you are all about
- It is important especially since as Christians our name is tied to the name of Jesus Christ

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- Would God ever ask you to do something that would have the effect of tarnishing your name in the minds of some people?
 - I'm not talking about something Biblically sinful
 - Would you say, "Yes, Lord."

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- What about letting a sinful woman wet your feet with her tears, dry them with her hair, kiss them and anoint them with expensive perfume in front of “*important*” religious leaders?
- What about overlooking an offense without striking out?

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- What about being a young teenage girl allowing the Holy Spirit to impregnate her?
- What about a righteous man accepting the child of his pregnant fiancé as his own and allowing everyone to accuse and question him and his character?

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- This is what God asked a good Jewish man to do
- Set aside your self-righteousness, pride, earthly natural desires and allow God to work His will into your life
- His name was Joseph of Nazareth whom we know so little about

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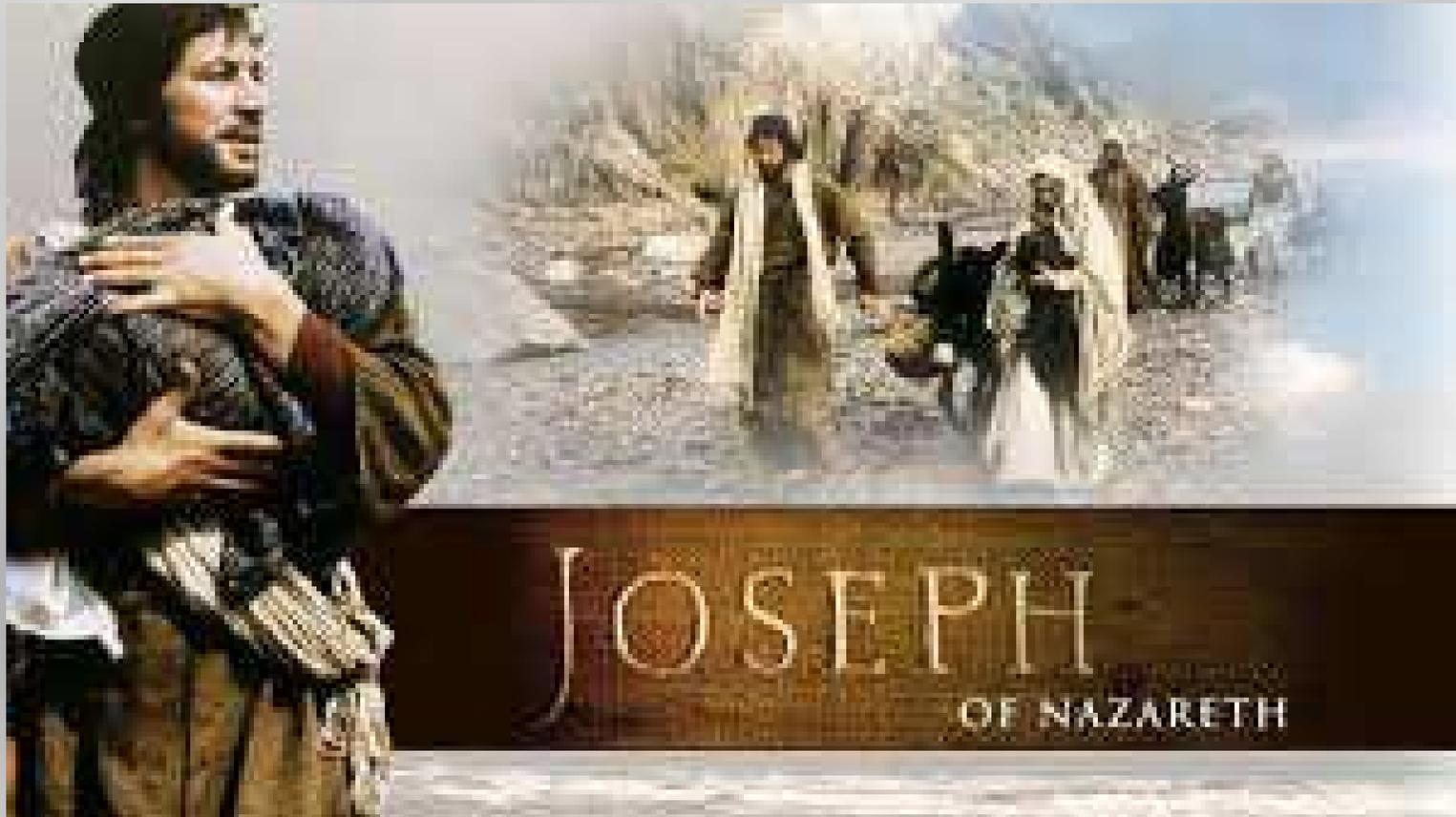
- But God chose him to be the earthly father of Jesus
- To provide to Jesus the lineage necessary to satisfy His place in the kingly line of David, the tribe of Judah, the son of Abraham

- **Matthew 1:18-27 NIV** 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.

- **Matthew 1:18-27 NIV** 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.”

- **Matthew 1:18-27** 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”).

- **Matthew 1:18-27** 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.



A Good Man- Matthew 1:18-27

We are so quick to just assume the blessings Joseph received being the earthly father of Jesus that we forget how very difficult it would have been

- **19** Joseph her husband was faithful to the law - just, righteous, good
 - Means conforming to the will of God or in a right relationship with God

We are so quick to just assume the blessings Joseph received being the earthly father of Jesus that we forget how very difficult it would have been

- **18** Before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit
 - Joseph did not know this at first
 - It does not appear he had talked to Mary or Mary never told him how she became pregnant

We are so quick to just assume the blessings Joseph received being the earthly father of Jesus that we forget how very difficult it would have been

- With this news, everything changes in Joseph's life
- Jewish betrothal was more than an engagement, it was contractual
- Matthew had to get this information from Mary as Joseph had relayed it to her

We see here in Joseph a righteous, good man with a devastating decision to make

- Some decisions are easy, awkward, unpleasant others excruciating
- He was applying biblical principles to the issue he faced and make the tough decision

We see here in Joseph a righteous, good man with a devastating decision to make

- Joseph used the revealed Word of God to drive his decision
 - The Law states that Joseph was to public divorce her at the city gates, that would bring shame to Mary and her family
- Joseph's only question was how?

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- **19** Yet (he) did not want to expose her to public disgrace (to make a spectacle of)
 - A parade of shame
 - Joseph was hurting but he understood grace
 - He did not have complete knowledge
 - And we rarely do as well

We see here in Joseph a righteous, good man with a devastating decision to make

- **19** He had in mind to divorce her quietly
 - He was not willing to call down the wrath of the courts or the community upon his betrothed
 - **Proverbs 19:11 NIV** It is to one's glory to overlook an offense

We see here in Joseph a righteous, good man with a devastating decision to make

- 19 He had in mind to divorce her quietly
 - He was not willing to call down the wrath of the courts upon his betrothed
 - 1st Peter 4:8 NIV love covers over a multitude of sins
 - It would still be public but with only a couple of witnesses

We see here in Joseph a righteous, good man with a devastating decision to make

- **20** After he had considered this
 - Some translations have the word pondered = think about (something) carefully, especially before deciding or reaching a conclusion

We see here in Joseph a righteous, good man with a devastating decision to make

- 20 After he had considered this
 - No rash decision here, no selfish decision here, no prideful decision here
- Someone said, “Being humble involves the willingness to be reckoned a failure in everyone’s sight but Gods.”

We see here in Joseph a man willing to let God lead his decision regardless what it might look like

- In our Christian walk we will constantly battle Security verses Risk
 - We are comfortable in our bubbles
 - Yet God is always leading us outside where we have nothing comfortable to hold onto except our relationship with Him

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- Jonah failed at first
- Moses tried to talk God out of it
- But Noah built a boat in the desert
- Jesus calls us to let go and become what He sees in us
- **Matthew 4:19 NKJV** Then He (Jesus) said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

We see here in Joseph a man willing to let God lead his decision regardless what it might look like

- **20** “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.”
 - Notice the angel addressed Joseph as the son of David, the same title given Jesus

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- God is saying, “Joseph, I’m going to knock your socks off so – DO NOT BE AFRAID”
 - To take Mary home as your wife – complete the marriage
 - To take up a role you will feel totally unprepared and incompetent for

We see here in Joseph a man willing to let God lead his decision regardless what it might look like

- God is saying, “Joseph, I’m going to knock your socks off so – DO NOT BE AFRAID”
 - Of the shame this will appear to bring to you and your family
- When God is in it, we do not need to fear regardless what it looks like

We see here in Joseph a man willing to let God lead his decision regardless what it might look like

- You, Joseph, are about to become a part of a fantastic plan God has designed before creation, but there will be pain
 - God the Son is coming to earth and you have been chosen to be designated as His earthly Father and protector

We see here in Joseph a man willing to let God lead his decision regardless what it might look like

- **24** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him
 - Nothing fancy
 - Simple obedience, from a simple man
 - All the way through, even to His name

We see here in Joseph a righteous man making a righteous decision based upon the Word of God

- Jesus replied, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it’” (Luke 11:28)
- **24** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him
- Simple obedience, from a simple man who came to the decision based upon the revealed Word of God through the angel

We see here in Joseph a righteous man making a righteous decision based upon the Word of God

- This was not a decision based on feelings
 - Joseph did not make it to move up the popularity pole
 - Joseph did not make it to impress anyone, not even God

We see here in Joseph a righteous man making a righteous decision based upon the Word of God

- If God would come down in some miraculous way and give you clear directions when you're facing a tough decision, would you unquestionably and immediately be willing to do what he told you?
 - Jonah didn't, Moses didn't, but Noah did

We see here in Joseph a righteous man making a righteous decision based upon the Word of God

- We have something better than an angel today
 - God's Holy Spirit
 - **John 16:13 NIV** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

We see here in Joseph a righteous man making a righteous decision based upon the Word of God

- We have something better than an angel today
 - We also have the complete revealed Word of God
 - This all depends upon if we are open, teachable and humble

Why all the fuss over a baby?

- **21** You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins
 - **22** Isaiah said, “They will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”)
 - The visible presence of God with us
 - Both Savior and Lord (God in flesh)

Why all the fuss over a baby?

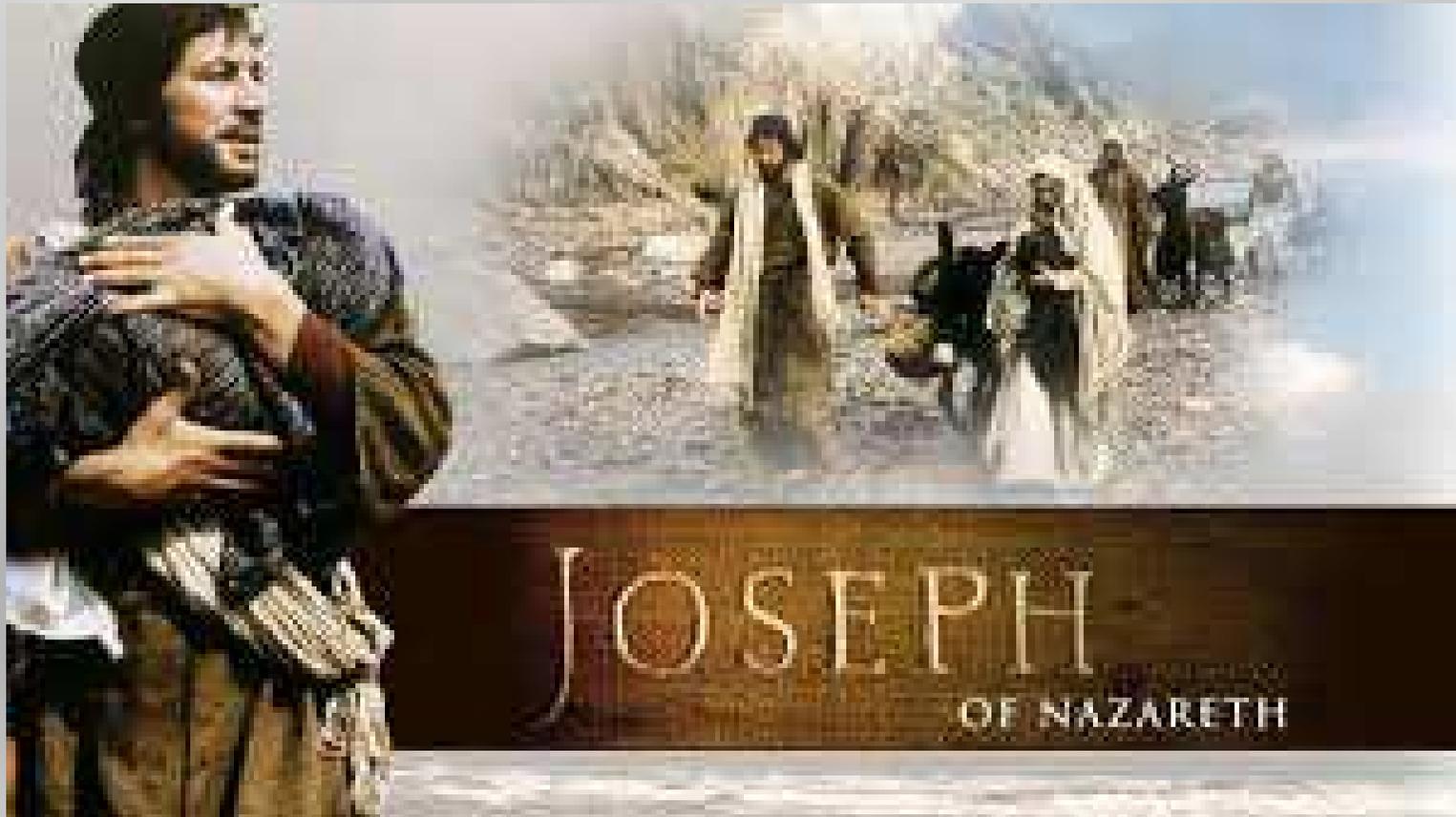
- **John 1:14 NIV** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Why all the fuss over a baby?

- The worst calamity that could ever befall human beings is to fall under the judgement of God for their sin
 - This await every person who does not rush to Jesus for salvation

Why all the fuss over a baby?

- Why Jesus?
 - Because He is THE savior, and He WILL save His people from the eternal consequences of their sins
- Joseph fully embraced Jesus as his son
- We must fully embrace Jesus as our Savior and Lord



A Good Man- Matthew 1:18-27