

# Unsung Heroes

## Joseph – The earthly father of Jesus

### Points to Consider

1. Joseph was a just man
2. Joseph was a contemplative man
3. Joseph was an obedient man

### Joseph was a just man

**Matt 1:18-25** - Mary was \_\_\_\_\_ to Joseph. Joseph was her husband.

**Gen 24:50-53** - Abraham's servant brokered a deal to take Rebekah back to marry Isaac. That deal included giving gifts to Rebekah and her family.

#### **Gen 29:15-20; Gen 32:9-11**

Jacob was poor when he arrived at Laban's house, so the only dowry he could offer Laban was \_\_\_\_\_ years of physical labor.

The dowry Joseph paid for Mary was either a period of physical labor or something else of value.

The penalty for a woman who committed adultery during the betrothal was \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 22:23-24).

#### **Gen 38:24**

Judah was not a righteous man, yet he sought the most extreme punishment for one more righteous than himself.

Joseph was a just man and didn't want to \_\_\_\_\_ Mary but rather was inclined to put her away secretly.

Just people \_\_\_\_\_ delight when those who wronged them are punished.

Just people don't always demand their rights to the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

All of the unsung heroes we've looked at so far wanted to help others not hurt them.

### Joseph was a contemplative man

**Matt 1:20-21** - Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ about the situation with Mary instead of just reacting to it. Concerning the situation there wasn't much to think about. He knew he was betrothed to Mary; he knew she was pregnant, and he knew the baby wasn't his.

He may have been contemplating why she hurt him or who the father of the baby was.

It doesn't seem he was contemplating how to get his \_\_\_\_\_ back.

His biggest concern seems to be what to do about his relationship with Mary.

- He could have had her stoned.
- He could have put her away secretly. This was the direction he was leaning.
- He could have gone ahead and married her.

**Prov 13:16** Wise people think \_\_\_\_\_ they act; fools don't—and even brag about their foolishness. NLT

**Prov 15:28** *The heart of the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.* NKJV

**Prov 14:15-17** *The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives \_\_\_\_\_ to his steps. 16 One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. 17 A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated.* ESV

**James 1:19-20** *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, \_\_\_\_\_ to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.* NKJV

It was while Joseph was thinking about what to do next that \_\_\_\_\_ gave him the direction he was searching for.

God doesn't give us direct answers like He gave Joseph, but God will still help us make good choices if we consider what is best for Him and others and not merely what is best for us.

**James 1:2-8** - There are at least two important points regarding God helping us make good decisions when we consider what to do before we do it.

1. Sometimes we gain wisdom through \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God always will give us wisdom when we \_\_\_\_\_ in faith.

**Prov 19:20** - Another way in which God helps us make good decisions is by putting \_\_\_\_\_ people around us who will give us good advice.

**Ps 119:105** - God's word is \_\_\_\_\_ in determining what God wants us to do. Sometimes it is as simple as following the golden rule.

**1 Cor 10:11** - Sometimes the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible help us know how God wants us to live.

## He was an obedient man

**Matt 1:24-25** - Joseph did \_\_\_\_\_ the angel of the Lord commanded him to do.

**Matt 2:13-15** - Joseph obeyed the angel and moved to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matt 2:19** - When the angel told him to leave Egypt and go back to Israel, he \_\_\_\_\_. Joseph had concerns about returning to Judea because of Archelaus. Given his character and what we are told about him, we can be confident that he was considering what to do next when God \_\_\_\_\_ him to go to Galilee instead of Judea.

**Luke 2:39-40** - Joseph and Mary performed \_\_\_\_\_ things according to the law of the Lord before returning to Nazareth.

**Luke 2:41-52** - Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_ year at the Feast of the Passover.

## Points we considered

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