



*Joseph: Shaky Limbs and Unanswered Questions*

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Pastor John Foss

*“Christmas in July” question of the day:*

*What is your favorite Christmas tradition?*

**I. What do you suppose God saw in Joseph? What made God say, “That’s the man whom I will entrust to raise my Son on earth?”**

- God \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph for the \_\_\_\_\_ that awaited him.
- Ever go “out on a limb?” Outside of your comfort zone? What did Joseph think? How did he envision his future?

**II. Joseph was caught in the middle. (Matthew 1:18-25)**

- “Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.” (Matthew 1:19)
- Joseph was a “tsadiq,” a student of the Torah, a “\_\_\_\_\_ man.” He had everything to lose, by staying with Mary.
- What do you stand to lose if you follow God’s call as Joseph did?
- “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:24-25)

**III. It took \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for Joseph to follow God’s plan.**

- Would you be willing to follow God as Joseph did?
- Let’s look to Jesus, who said, “For whoever wants to \_\_\_\_\_ his life will lose it, but whoever \_\_\_\_\_ his life for me will find it.” (Matthew 16:25)
- Read Philippians 2:5-11. What does this passage say about Jesus, our model of humility?

**IV. To think and pray about and apply to your life:**

- When was a time your reputation took a hit because of your relationship with Jesus? How did you respond?
- The story of Jesus’ birth is the story of God working through ordinary people (like Joseph) and ordinary places and events. How has God worked through the everyday experiences of your life? How have you seen the miraculous in the mundane?
- In spite of Joseph’s “shaky limbs and unanswered questions,” he recognized he was a “chisel in God’s hands” and was obedient to God’s plans. What does the following verse say to you about the importance of being obedient to God?

*“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (John 14:21)*

**Looking ahead...**

*Next week our focus is on Mary.*

save loses

humility, courage

righteous

equipped, task

**Answers:**