



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Queens & Kings: King Joseph”

Ps James Lowe – June 15, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who was your favorite teacher or coach? Why?
- What was the most important lesson you learned from your father (or a father figure in your life)?
- What do you think is the greatest challenge (or the greatest gratification) of being a father?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Adam failed to lead and take dominion over the creation. He failed to function prophetically by failing to clarify God's word to his wife. When confronted by God, he failed to take responsibility and instead shifted blame to his wife. Adam should have defined, defended, and disciplined his family, beginning with his wife. He failed in his leadership position.

Joseph, the husband of Mary (the mother of Jesus), on the other hand, faithfully exercised his family leadership responsibilities. Joseph successfully defined, defended, and disciplined his family.

DEFINER

Matthew 1:18-25 ESV - Joseph takes Mary to be his wife.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”... When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.

When Joseph learned Mary was pregnant prior to their wedding, he demonstrated his love for her in contrast to cultural custom. He sought to quietly end the betrothal, rather than expose her to public shame. But when an angel of God explained the supernatural conception of Mary, Joseph didn't hesitate to take Mary as his wife, even though he and Mary would be publicly shamed for being perceived to have conceived out of wedlock. By wedding her, he brought her definition as his wife and spared her grief.

Luke 2:21-40 ESV - Joseph names Jesus and dedicates him to God.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord... And when they had

performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

According to Jewish custom, Jesus was named by his father. Joseph also brought him to the Temple to dedicate him to God. From the time Jesus was a baby Joseph was faithful to define him as one who would be raised in the knowledge and ways of the Lord.

DEFENDER

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 ESV Joseph moves the family to Egypt, and then to Galilee.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 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 in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Joseph was diligent to protect his family even though it caused them significant hardship. He was willing to take on greater burdens than would otherwise have been the case, because he was committed to protecting them from evil. Not only did he protect them from violence, but he also protected them from the evils of worldliness by leading them to honor the Lord's will.

DISCIPLER

Luke 2:41-52 ESV - Joseph raises Jesus in the knowledge of God.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it... After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers... And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Jesus had already been learning the Scriptures while he was a boy growing up in Joseph's home. He clearly had significant knowledge and understanding prior to the event at the Temple when he was twelve. Joseph certainly took him to the local synagogue to receive his early education in the Scriptures. Because Jesus demonstrated such advanced ability, it would have been normal for his parents to send him off to rabbinical school in Jerusalem to receive special training. But Joseph judged it best for Jesus to stay in Nazareth and continue under his fatherly care. Joseph must have been a great father, playing a significant role in shaping Jesus throughout his upbringing.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- How has your father defined your identity? Does it agree with what God's Word says about you?
- When facing difficult situations do you easily trust your Heavenly Father as your defender?
- Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would help the fathers among us to define their families in godliness and strength.
- That God would help the fathers among us to defend their families from all manner of evil.
- That God would help the fathers among us to disciple their families in the ways of God.