

December 18, 2022. Matthew 1:18-25.

Title: Joseph's Example: Encounter God's Love through Joseph.

Joseph serves as a great example to us in several areas:

1. His Example of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The Bible tells us here in Matthew 1:19 that Joseph was "a righteous man." To be "righteous" means to be in the "right" standing.

2. His example of SENSITIVITY and LOVE.

The second part of verse 19 says "and not wanting to disgrace her, he planned to dismiss her quietly." This shows Joseph was a caring man.

3. His Example of OBEDIENCE and FAITH

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife (Matthew 1:24NRSV).

Joseph demonstrated his obedience to God in several ways:

- Matthew 1:19, Joseph was determined to obey God by sending Mary away.
- Matthew 1:24, Joseph took back Mary as his wife just as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.
- Matthew 2:13-15, the angel of the Lord told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because King Herod was going to kill the child.
- Matthew 2:19-21, after Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and tell him to take Jesus and his mother back to the land of Israel.

Lesson for us: when we have faith that God is speaking, it is much easier to obey.

Question: How can we be sure we are hearing God, so we know what to obey?

John 10:27 NIV, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me".

Dear God, forgive me for letting the noise of this world drown out your voice. I want to hear Your voice and learn Your ways. Be my Teacher and Guide. I know you are here with me now as I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.