

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In what ways was Joseph very important in the Gospels?
2. In what ways did Joseph seem insignificant? Can you think of other things that we did not discuss in our study?
3. Do you think that Joseph was satisfied with his role in God's plan?
4. What would you NOT have liked about being Joseph? What would have been your greatest joy?
5. What have you learned in this series that can be most helpful in your walk with Christ?

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



December 23 & 24, 2017 | Joseph - Not Forgotten | Matt. 2 | Dennis Miller, pastor

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JOSEPH

1. Joseph was seemingly EVERYWHERE in the Christmas story.

— It was Joseph's LINEAGE that forced the family to go to Bethlehem.

Luke 2:4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. *5* He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

— Joseph was in the STABLE the NIGHT of our Lord's birth.

Luke 2:16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

— Joseph was a JUST man who took the Child and Mary to Jerusalem for purification as the LAW required.

Luke 2:22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

— God SPOKE to Joseph through an ANGEL in at least 4 dreams, and Joseph protected the Baby from DANGER.

Matt. 2:14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod.

2. Joseph was a KEY figure in the story of Jesus and His visit to Jerusalem at the age of 12.

Luke 2:48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

3. Joseph apparently WORKED with his adopted Son and taught Him a TRADE.

Matt. 13:55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? . . .

Mark 6:3 Isn't this the carpenter? . . .

THE INSIGNIFICANCE OF JOSEPH

1. Joseph never SPEAKS a WORD in the entire Bible.

2. Joseph is carefully referred to as the HUSBAND of Mary but never by Matthew or the angel as the FATHER of Jesus.

Matt. 1:15 Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Matt. 2:20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother . . .

3. AFTER the Jerusalem story when Jesus was 12 years old, Joseph does not APPEAR again in Scripture.

4. It is likely that Joseph was ALIVE when Jesus BEGAN His ministry.

Luke 4:22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

John 6:42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

5. But it is also VERY likely that Joseph DIED shortly after Jesus began His ministry.

Matt. 12:46 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. 47 Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

John 19:25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

THE PURPOSE FOR JOSEPH

1. Joseph gave Jesus His LINEAGE (even though Jesus was adopted) which made Jesus the rightful HEIR to Israel's throne.



This was necessary to FULFILL the promises of a KING who would take the THRONE of David.

2. Joseph LOVED and PROTECTED his family and was obedient to the WORD of the Lord.

3. But Joseph had to DIE to allow for his adopted SON to become Israel's KING.

Matt. 2:2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Mark 15:18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 19:19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

— Could Joseph have known this would be his destiny?

Luke 2:33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

NOTE:

Not many people would have "SIGNED UP" for Joseph's life. His life and work went largely unnoticed, and what he did was "BEHIND the scenes." But most of us can relate MORE to Joseph than any other person in the nativity. This reminds us that although it seems that no one NOTICES, we are still IMPORTANT in God's plan.

TWO LESSONS FOR FOCUS:

1. God has a plan and purpose for EVERY life.

Rom. 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. Although we may sometimes FEEL insignificant, God SEES and REMEMBERS our work and love forever.

Heb. 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

