

Joseph [Jesus Christ's Earthly Father]

Joseph was the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus Christ. He was a descendent of King David, [Matthew 1:20].

Joseph was betrothed to Mary but Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit before he had intercourse with her, [Matthew 1:16; Luke 1:27, 35].

Joseph acted as a father towards Jesus, taking Him to Jerusalem for purification [Luke 2:22] and fleeing with Him to Egypt to escape Herod, [Matthew 2:13-15].

Joseph took the boy Jesus to Jerusalem each year to the Passover, [Luke 2:41].

Perhaps Jesus Christ's words in Luke 2:49 indicate that He knew that Joseph was not His father at the age of 12 years.

It is almost certain that Joseph was not alive during the ministry of Jesus Christ.

There is **no** direct mention of Joseph and it is hard to explain otherwise the words of Jesus Christ to John from the cross, [John 19:26-27] and the reference to Mary and Jesus Christ's brothers seeking Him [Matthew 12:46; Mark 3:31; Luke 8:19]. It is natural to assume that the brothers of Jesus were subsequent children of Joseph and Mary.

Joseph was a man with strong beliefs in the Creator God.

Joseph was prepared to do what was right despite the pain he knew it would cause.

Joseph had another trait, he not only tried to do what was right, he also tried to do it in the right way.

When Mary told Joseph about her pregnancy, Joseph knew that the child was not his. But his love and respect for Mary and the explanation she gave him, as well as her attitude towards the expected child, must have made it hard for him to think his fiancée had done something wrong.

At first Joseph decided he had to break off the engagement, but he was determined to do it in a way that would cause no public shame to Mary, [Matthew 1:19].

At this point, the Creator God sent a messenger to Joseph to confirm Mary's story and open another way of obedience for Joseph, to take Mary as his wife, [Matthew 1:20-21].

Joseph obeyed God, married Mary, and honoured her virginity until the baby Jesus was born, [Matthew 2:24-25].

Joseph knew Jesus was someone special from the moment he heard the words of the angel.

Joseph's strong belief in that fact and his willingness to follow God's leading empowered him to be Jesus Christ's chosen earthly father.

Lessons we can learn from the life of Joseph –

God honours our integrity.

Our social position in the world is of little important when God chooses to use us.

Being obedient to the guidance we have from God through His Word, the Christian Bible, leads to more guidance from Him, [**John 16:13**].

Feelings are not accurate measures of the rightness or wrongness of an action.

After the Magi had left [**Matthew 2:11-12**], Joseph had another angel visit him and told him to take Mary and the child [most likely 2 years old by now] to Egypt, because Herod was seeking to kill them. The gifts that the Magi brought may have provided the financial resources for this trip to Egypt and back, [**Matthew 2:19-23**].

Luke 2:51-52 [New King James] *“Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.”*

Some credit for this must have been because of the influence of His physical father, Joseph, [**Luke 2:46-47**].