

## ***The Marriage of Joseph and Mary Part 1***

***“6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6 KJV)***

***“8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”  
(Hebrews 13:8 KJV)***

Now a day they will say that the Old Testament is no more because now we are in the New Testament, and some others will say that the time is now changed and what is in the Bible is no more a practical thing that we can live our lives like the people in the Bible they lived.

Development in technology and various aspects of life might be changing from now and then, but the moral aspect of life and the holiness of living that God would expect to see in us is the same because the Word of God tells us that, ***“8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8 KJV)*** What the Word of God dictates to us and demands from us is still standing and valid for us to follow.

We will tackle now what the New Testament speaks about the period that precedes marriage. When a man is pledged to marry a certain woman, will the Word of God allow that they will be together and in privacy without being married? Or does the New Testament speak about dating, courting, and love before marriage?

**The Bible does not agree and speaks about that.** From the life of Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus, we will see whether those who were pledged to get married were allowed to meet one another and be in privacy before being married.

Let us read ***Matthew 1:18-25, “18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”***

Mary was espoused to Joseph. The Greek Word for ‘**espoused**’, is ‘**Mnesteuo**’, which means, ‘*it had been agreed upon*’, ‘*to be promised in marriage*’, ‘*be betrothed*’, or ‘*that this man will be going to marry that woman*’. It is not an arrangement by man and woman. It is an arrangement ordained by God and executed by Him. The marriage of Adam and Eve was arranged and ordained by God, and the marriage of Joseph and Mary was also ordained and arranged by God. Joseph and Mary did not arrange their marriage by themselves but perhaps God used people to make this marriage come true.

Joseph was a just man which means righteous man. The Greek Word used here for ‘**just**’, is ‘**Dikaios**’, which means, ‘*righteous observing divine laws*’. **A righteous man should observe a divine law. To hunger and thirst for righteousness entail that man and woman should not meet and have intimacy and communications before marriage. There should be no physical and no emotional intimacy.** If Joseph was meeting Mary before marriage, then he would not be able to leave her when he found out she was pregnant.

Was Joseph and Mary were meeting together and be alone before marriage? The answer is ‘No’, and the following are the discussion of the proof:

**I.** The Word of God tells us the following: ***“18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 1:18 KJV)*** The clear statement here is this: ***“before they came together.”*** So they were aware that they will marry but they did not come or be together in privacy. They might see each other while Mary with her family or Joseph with his family but they did not come together or be together and in direct intimacy. The girls at that time were putting the veil over them, so the man will not be able to see the body parts of the woman.

**II.** When Mary was found pregnant, ***“19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.” (Matthew 1:19 KJV)*** The question is this: if Joseph and Mary were meeting together before marriage then how Joseph would be able to prove that he was not the one whom Mary was pregnant? Surely Joseph was never together in a private place with Mary, because how he will convince the people that he was not the man that she was pregnant from?

**III.** The angel who appeared to Joseph in a dream told Joseph the following: ***“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 1:20 KJV)*** The statement of the angel ***“fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife”***, means that Joseph did not yet take Mary to himself, to his body, or his home and be in privacy with her. If he had taken her, hug her or embrace her, the angel will not tell that to Joseph.

**IV.** The fact of what God’s Word tells us in ***Matthew 1:24, “Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.”*** We can conclude that only at that time Joseph took Mary to his home, ***“25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” (Matthew 1:25 KJV)*** And even after he took her home he did not cohabit with her and knew her as his wife in the use of the marriage bed, but he waited for her until she delivered Jesus her first born.

In the Old Testament, we come across the Word, ‘**betrothed**’, for those who were espoused for marriage as Joseph and Mary. The Hebrew Word used for ‘**betrothed**’, is ‘**Yaad**’, and it means, ‘*to fix*’, ‘*appoint*’, ‘*assemble*’, ‘*meet*’, ‘*set*’, ‘*betroth*’, ‘*to appoint*’, ‘*assign*’, ‘*designate*’, ‘*to meet*’, ‘*to meet by appointment*’, ‘*to gather*’, ‘*assemble by appointment*’, ‘*to cause to meet*’, ‘*to be set*’, ‘*be placed before*’, ‘*be fixed*’. Those who are betrothed, the men and the women, had fixed and assigned in their minds that they will be going to assemble and meet with one another on the appointment of the wedding day.

The following are some of the Scriptures that contain the Word, ‘**betrothed**’ or ‘**Yaad**’:

*“7 And if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant, she shall not go out as the menservants do. 8 If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her. 9 And if he have betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters.” (Exodus 21:7-9 KJV)*

*“16 And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.” (Exodus 22:16 KJV)*

*“20 And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid, betrothed to an husband, and not at all redeemed, nor freedom given her; she shall be scourged; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.” (Leviticus 19:20 KJV)*

*“7 And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.” (Deuteronomy 20:7 KJV)*

*“23 If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; 24 Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you. 25 But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die. 26 But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter: 27 For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her. 28 If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; 29 Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.” (Deuteronomy 22:23-29 KJV)*

Now let us go back to Joseph and Mary, and find out which time Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant? The external appearance of pregnancy on the body will not be appearing only after the third month. In the book of Luke let us read how the angel appeared to Mary and announced to her that God had called her to be pregnant with God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: *“26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which*

*shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. 39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.” (Luke 1:26-40 KJV)* Here Mary traveled from Galilee to Juda after the angel commissioned her to be pregnant with Jesus. Do you think that Mary had told Joseph about what the angel spoke to her before she left to Juda? If she had said that to him, then he will not think to leave her after she appeared pregnant. So that is again confirming that there was neither communication nor intimacy between them.

*\* What then can we consider the emotional and physical intimacy between man and woman before marriage? It is not the righteousness of God that the Lord wants us to live. Put in your mind, that we are not only called to be righteous but to hunger and thirst for righteousness. \* If you have not been taught before, then this is the right time for you to know that intimacy between man and woman before marriage is not the righteousness that God desires. God gave us His Word to inform us and then the Word of God will transform us.*

Mary traveled being pregnant from Galilee to Juda, a journey of not more than several days and she stayed with her cousin three months and she came back, *“56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.” (Luke 1:56 KJV)* So in her coming back, she was in her fourth month of pregnancy. Joseph and Mary were not in privacy before marriage and that what the Scriptures in *Matthew 1:18* says, *“before they came together.”* which means Mary after she came back from her cousin, that was the time that Joseph came to know about her that she was pregnant, and Joseph wanted. *“to put her away privily.” (Matthew 1:19 KJV)*

*“To put her away privily”,* it means to divorce her. Why divorce and not to separate? Because espoused or betrothed girl at that time considered married but they have not yet come together. Mary said to the angel who announced to her the calling of God, *“How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34 KJV)* So, Mary did not know really what was inside the body of a man. *That is what God wants from us. Neither the man should know what a woman is before marriage, nor should the woman know what a man is before marriage. Advance in knowledge does not supersede God's ordinances.*

*My Dear and Beloved:* If we had not been taught, this is not the fault of God, and it is not that God is asking too much. Why we are so careful to send our children to the best educational colleges but we are careless to teach them and equip them with God's Word? It is His will to live a righteous life. We should be repenting and be thankful to God who is revealing to us His will and His Word, and to move forward in obedience to Him in implementing the righteousness of God.

At the time of Joseph and Mary, the people were obeying God's Word; they were practicing social and emotional distancing; the women were wearing veils to cover the whole body, they were also having veils to cover their faces. They were obedient not like now, they lived in the fear of God, and their lives were better than now. When a man does not fear God, the Lord knows how to discipline man.

Come now to God and reflect the message in your life and see where are you now from applying the Word of God that we learned from this message and whether you are in hunger and thirst for righteousness. Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me what is holiness and righteousness in pertains to marriage. Lord thank you for the good plan that you have for me, and thank you for the teaching, corrections and the admonishments that I received from this message.*

*Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lust and your physical and emotional intimacy before marriage and getting involved in boyfriend and girlfriend. Confess and renounce your worldliness, and your love for material things. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, especially in pertain to marriage. Confess and renounce your disobedience to God and your non willingness to follow His Word. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce dating, courting and love before marriage. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, having many friends and in bondage with the Media. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to serve you and to live my life according to your plan and will for me and according to the teaching that I received in this message. Lord I am willing to live the righteous life and in holiness that your Word ordains for me to live. Lord uphold me with your grace and provide for me so I will continue to live my life for you.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, humbled themselves and willing to follow your will and plan for them and live in holiness and righteousness. Lord bless them, continue to provide for them and use them to serve you. Lord discipline those who are not willing to stop the physical and the emotional intimacy before marriage.*

*Lord, bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach and implement the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives in accordance to the teaching we received in this message. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Marriage of Joseph and Mary Part 1. Matthew 5:6. Hebrews 13:8. Matthew 1:18-25. Exodus 21:7-9. Exodus 22:16. Leviticus 19:20. Deuteronomy 20:7. Deuteronomy 22:23-29. Luke 1:26-40, 56.

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