

The Marriage of Joseph and Mary Part 2

“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.” (Matthew 1:18-25 KJV)

We will continue what we started in the previous message. The Greek Word for ‘put away’, in *Matthew 1:19*, is ‘**Apoluo**’, and the meaning of it is ‘to let go’, ‘to dismiss’, ‘to release’, or ‘to divorce’. The same Word used in *Matthew 19*, *“3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” (Matthew 19:3, 7-9 KJV)*

You notice here that Joseph did not choose to marry because he liked Mary or because he loved her. He decided to leave her. People at the time of Noah married whatever they choose. Righteous people and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would marry what God had ordained for them to marry. We can say it in this tactful way: Righteous people would love to marry what God prepared for them. *“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.” (Matthew 1:20 KJV)* God revealed to Joseph whom he needed to marry and not his choice. Notice, Joseph in obedience to God married whom he decided to put away.

The angel called him *“Joseph, thou son of David”*, reminding him about his responsibility before God to bring God’s salvation to the human race, assuring him not to fear and announcing to him that Mary what was conceived in her was of the Holy Spirit. Explaining to him that she will give birth to a son that he needs to call Him Jesus who shall save His people from sins, *“21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 KJV)* Here Joseph understood that His marriage and his family will bring glory and will bring honor to God by bringing the salvation of God to the whole universe. * A righteous man will not do what he likes or wishes, apart from what God likes and wishes. * Righteous men and women should realize that their marriage would bring glory and honor to God. * Righteous men and women should realize that their marriage would bring the fruit of souls to God.

“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.” (Matthew 1:22-23 KJV) The angel confirmed to Joseph the revelation of God from what is written in the Scriptures. To hunger and thirst for righteousness, we must be led by the Holy Spirit and instructed with God’s Word.

“24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.” (Matthew 1:24 KJV) Joseph, once he woke up, he immediately did what God asked him to do. To hunger and to thirst for righteousness we need to do what God wants us to do immediately and not to delay and linger. Delay obedience is disobedience. It says about Joseph, *“and took unto him his wife.”* It means just this time he took her unto him and not before. But he did not know her as a woman till she gave birth to her firstborn son. *“25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” (Matthew 1:25 KJV)* To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to abide by the instruction we received and apply self-control in our lives to implement God’s instruction for us. Joseph gave the same name that the angel gave to him; the same name, Jesus, which was given to Mary, his wife before marriage.

Apostle Paul told the Corinthians church: *“36 But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.” (1 Corinthians 7:36 KJV)* Paul speaking here that if someone betrothed to a virgin girl and he is acting improperly toward her, then he should marry her. The Corinthians were Gentiles whose previous lives were in fornication. Paul was the one who planted that church, and it was recorded in that church cases of immorality that were not even recorded among the heathen, *“1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.” (1 Corinthians 5:1)* But in spite of all that Paul emphasized holiness in his letter to them as we can conclude the following points from *1 Corinthians 7:36*:

- A.** In mentioning the Word *“virgin”*, Paul meant here no sex before the wedding day.
- B.** In mentioning the statement *“behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin”*, Paul meant here that there should not be before marriage any sinful improper acts and thoughts between the man and the woman like touch, embrace, kisses, and talk that will cause both of them to be unclean.
- C.** There should be no emotional or physical intimacy between the man and the woman before the wedding day, the same as we observed in the life and the marriage of Joseph and Mary.
- D.** The Holy Spirit will work, and glory will be given to God when the man and the woman will have neither emotional nor physical intimacy before the wedding day.

Joseph even after the wedding he did not know Mary as a woman till she gave birth to Jesus who was the first child for Mary. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph knew Mary as his wife and she has other children from him. The Scripture teaches us that Jesus had brothers and sisters, *“3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.” (Mark 6:3 KJV)*

After marriage, Joseph as a righteous man continue to do God's will, caring for his wife and his family, ***"4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*** ***5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*** ***6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*** ***7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."*** (Luke 2:4-7 KJV) Joseph as a righteous man obeyed the rules of the government and traveled a long distance to be registered in Bethlehem because he was of the house and lineage of David.

Joseph abided with the instruction of God's Word and circumcised his son on the eighth day and presented Jesus being the firstborn to the Lord, giving his first born to God. ***"21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*** ***22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;*** ***23 (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)*** ***24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."*** (Luke 2:21-24 KJV) **At this time we are not required by the Word of God to perform circumcision to our children, but we are required to present and redeem our first born, to give our firstfruits and our offerings and all that we ought to give to the Lord to bring to the Church of God.**

Through their visit to the temple to present Jesus to the Lord, Joseph and Mary received prophetic instructions about Jesus, as we can read the following:

"25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. ***26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*** ***27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,*** ***28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*** ***33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.*** ***34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*** (Luke 2:25-35 KJV) **Righteous men and women who hunger and thirst for righteousness will receive good instruction and spiritual care for their children from the church as what had happened here with Joseph and Mary, that inspired them and showed them a glimpse of the future of what will take place for their child, "40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him."** (Luke 2:40 KJV) **In the same way, as you keep your commitment with God and your communication to God's church, then you will receive further inspirational messages and prophecies about what will take place for your children and they will grow, and be strong, and will have the wisdom of God.**

After the birth of Jesus, the family was troubled with persecution. Herod wanted to kill the child, Jesus. But the Lord protected Him and protected the parents. God warned the wise men not to go back to report to Herod, and they obeyed God, ***"12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."*** (Matthew 2:12 KJV) God also warned the family through dreams given to Joseph and instructed him where He needed him to go to protect Jesus, ***"13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son."*** (Matthew 2:13-15 KJV) Joseph obeyed God and fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Hosea, ***"1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."*** (Hosea 11:1 KJV) God also spoke to Joseph after the death of Herod to come back from Egypt to Israel, ***"19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life."*** (Matthew 2:19-20 KJV) Joseph obeyed God, who further directed him to go to Nazareth instead of Judaea to avoid Archelaus who became king in the place of his father, Herod, ***"21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."*** (Matthew 2:21-23 KJV) **We as Godly families need to hearken to the leading of God. Every husband, the head of the family, needs to submit to the will of God and allow God to lead him so he can lead his wife and children.** The family of Joseph and Mary at that time was God's church who carried the mission of Jesus and brought Him to other nations. They, with the wise men, persevered to protect the church from any work of Satan and persecution. **We as loyal members of the body of Christ need to act in wisdom and discernment and in obedience to protect the church, our families, our children, the newborn believers, the new disciples from any work of Satan that would come to destroy them.**

Joseph as a righteous man continued to lead his family in the ways of God. After they returned to Nazareth Joseph continued to connect his family with God's church. Joseph and Mary were going every year to the feast of the Passover, ***"41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover."*** (Luke 2:41 KJV) **In the same way, we need to be in God's church meetings and gatherings as ordained by the law of God.**

They trained Jesus with the fear of the Lord. Jesus also went with them when He was 12 years old and the child was exposed to the teaching of the teachers of the temple, ***"42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 48 And when they***

saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” (Luke 2:42-52 KJV) In the same way, we need to teach our children and train them with the fear of the Lord and make them in contact with the teachers and the leaders of the church so they will grow not only in stature but as well as in wisdom and favor with God and man.

From the marriage of Joseph, we learn that we need to hunger and thirst for righteousness in the way we conduct our marriage and in the way we care for our lives, families, children, and our responsibilities toward God, toward the governments, and His church.

Joseph's family was fruitful and he got other children from Mary after Jesus, The Scriptures teaches us that Jesus had brothers and sisters, **“3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.” (Mark 6:3 KJV)** All their children finally became believers in Christ and were included in the church as we can read that they and Mary joined the apostles of the Lord after the resurrection of Christ, **“14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.” (Acts 1:14 KJV)** In addition to that two of them became apostles; James, **“19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.” (Galatians 1:19 KJV)** and Jude, **“1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James” (Jude 1:1 KJV)** they were the half brothers of Jesus.

My Dear and Beloved: From the family of Joseph and Mary, God's Word shows us the truth clearly to help us to remain truthful to God and to be committed to Him to live in holiness and full obedience to His Word. God's Word teaches us God's ways and His will. The Bible tells us **“2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2 KJV)** * So if you want to follow God and enjoy His good, pleasing and perfect will, then no more in following the pattern of this world and don't be deceived and follow the bad example of others who are disobedient to the faith that we follow as you agree to commit yourself to apply His Word in your life and the life of your children and disciples and the life of God's church. * The Lord shall give you the strength and will provide for you to do His will, and to raise people who are willing to abide with His Word and will in regard to preparation for Godly marriage, forming Godly families, and raising Godly children. 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 the teaching that I received from your Word and thank you for all the rebukes, corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your disobedience to God, your delay obedience and your non willingness to follow His Word. 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. Confess and renounce your lack of disciplining your children and raise them in the fear of God. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your non willingness to follow the government rules and regulations. Confess and renounce your lack of commitment to God's church, your lack of attending regularly and your delinquency to give your firstfruits and the rest of what you need to offer to God. 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 live and follow the teaching that I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to live the plan that you have for me. Lord I am willing to serve you and suffer for your cause and purpose. 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, and committed their lives to live in obedience to your Word we received in this message. Lord reward them, protect them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord, bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach and implement your Word. Lord we commit ourselves to 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 we pray for more Godly marriages and Godly families to be raised. 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 take the message and spread it to reach all the members, workers, families and the congregations of the church. 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 2. Matthew 1:18-25. Matthew 19:3, 7-9. 1 Corinthians 7:36. 1 Corinthians 5:1. Mark 6:3. Luke 2:4-7, 21-35, 40-52. Matthew 2:12-15, 19-23. Hosea 11:1. Acts 1:14. Galatians 1:19. Jude 1:1. Romans 12:2.

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