

Joseph: When God Chooses a Father for His Son

Matthew 1:18-25

If you had to entrust your child to someone else to rear them, who would you select? That was the question the heavenly Father had to answer. What qualities did He look for? And what kind of parents do we want our children to have?

1. Righteous

- vs. 19 “Joseph, being a righteous man”
- Committed to doing the right thing before God and others.

2. Prudent

- Level-headed, thinking through all options.
- vs. 20 “Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. But after he had considered these things...”

3. Compassionate

- Vs. 19 “Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.”
- Inclined to help a person in the wrong save face.

4. Obedient

- 1:24 “When Joseph got up from sleeping, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her.”
- Quick to comply, without demanding a complete explanation.

5. Maturity

- Maturity is the ability to postpone pleasure.
- 1:24-25 “He married her but did not know her intimately until she gave birth to a son”

6. Secure

- Able to accept being misunderstood without losing one’s joy or being distracted from one’s purpose.
- 1:24, NIV “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.”

7. Protective

- Alert to danger, taking immediate action in threatening circumstances.
- 2:13-14 “After they were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Get up! Take the child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to destroy Him.’ *So he got up, took the child and His mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt.*”

8. Committed

- Willing to be inconvenienced that the purposes of God might be served.
- Joseph lived a selfless life.
 - Took care of Mary
 - Took care of Jesus
 - Left no legacy of his own; it wasn't about him.