

# What do these people all have in common?

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- ◉ Walt Disney
- ◉ Brad Pitt
- ◉ Scott Hamilton
- ◉ Hugh Jackman
- ◉ Ronald Reagan

# Joseph

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## A Teenager's Dilemma



# Joseph: What We Know

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- Father was Jacob
- From the royal line of David
- Lived in Nazareth-95 miles from Bethlehem
- Carpenter
- Poor (turtledoves)
- Religious
- Probably around 17 years old
- Only mentioned in 2 gospels (Matthew and Luke)

# Pledged to Be Married

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- ① This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph...

Matthew 1:18

To be pledged meant you were husband and wife, but you could not live together for a year until the official ceremony. Being pledged was considered as sacred as a marriage. Time for testing commitment and faithfulness.

The only way to break the pledge was through a legal divorce.

# You're what?!

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- ◉ ...but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18
- ◉ Can you image Joseph's reaction? You find out the woman you are engaged to is pregnant and you're not the dad.
- ◉ What emotions you be feeling?
  - Anger, Confusion, Embarrassment, Disappointment...
  - *How do we react when our plans get messed up?*

# Joseph's Decision

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- ◉ <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. Matt 1: 19
- ◉ Joseph's decision lets us know:
  - He loved Mary because he resisted the opportunity to humiliate Mary.
  - He knew what was in store for Mary from the public.
- ◉ *When we have the chance to spare someone humiliation, do we take it?*

# A Calming Dream?

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- But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Matt 1:20
- Being a devout Jew, Joseph’s mind was put at ease when he heard, *“do not be afraid to take Mary into your home.”*
- *Would this dream have made you feel better? How do we react when what we know is the right thing to do is going to be difficult?*

# There's More to the Dream

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- <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
- Matthew 1:21-23



# My son is going to do what?

- We all hope that our children will be successful and turn out to be good people.
- Imagine hearing your son is going to save the people from their sins.
- Others who heard remarkable things from God:
  - Moses                  Noah
  - Abraham              Mary
- *All of these people obeyed/trusted in what the Lord said. Do we as a Christian trust in the words of our Lord?*



# Joseph's Finest Hour

- 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:24-25



# Joseph's Qualities

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- He protected Mary when he could have humiliated her. Mary was pregnant and he was not the father, but he trusted the Lord and married her.
- He accepted Jesus into his family as his own son.

# Qualities we should aspire to.

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- In these days of confusion, Joseph is a wonderful model of what a godly person looks like:

He was tough when he could have been weak.

He was tender when he could have been harsh.

He was thoughtful when he could have been hasty.

He was trusting when he could have doubted.

He was temperate when he could have let his emotions get the best of him.

# Are we like Joseph?

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- –Are we tough-minded, determined to do what is right no matter what it costs?
  - Are we tender with our loved ones?
  - Are we thoughtful, taking our time to make important decisions, or are we quick to jump to conclusions and quick to say things we later regret?
  - Are we trusting even when we think we could figure out a better way to do things?
  - Are we temperate and considerate of others' needs, or do we let our emotions rule us?