

# Heaven Sent: Joseph's First Christmas

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 4, 2011

Matt 1:18-25; 2:12-15, 19-23

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 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. 21 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." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 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 had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. 2:1-11...12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. 13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16-18... 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

From Joseph we learn that...

## 1. **OBEDIENCE TO GOD TAKES COURAGE**

The angel to Mary, "Do not be afraid"

The angel to Joseph, "Do not be afraid" (v. 20)

Gal 1:10

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Who are we worried about pleasing?

From Joseph we learn that...

## 2. **CHARACTER TRUMPS REPUTATION**

(v. 19) "Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace"

If you have character, God can use you.

From Joseph we learn that...

## 3. **OBEDIENCE HAS ETERNAL IMPLICATIONS**

The consequences of obedience (or disobedience) may not always be immediately visible.

Our obedience has the potential to impact many lives for all eternity.

What if Joseph (and Mary) had not been obedient?

Because of Joseph (and Mary's) obedience, the prophecy of the coming Messiah was fulfilled and Jesus, the Christ was born.

Who are you impacting for God's eternal Kingdom?