

Christmas Message – “The Silent Man” – Matthew 1:18-24

Pastor Alan J. Hodak - Maywood Community Church – December 22, 2024

Joseph is a man of incredible honor, due our respect, and was willing to wait for his betrothed while God borrowed this young woman for about a ten-month period, to give birth to the long-awaited Messiah. The story is fascinating as we consider Joseph in light of the narrative itself.

- I. Joseph, An _____ Man – vs. 18-21
 - a. The _____ v. 18
 - b. Joseph’s private _____ - vs. 19-20a
 - c. A Divine _____ vs. 20b-21

- II. Fulfillment of _____ - vs. 22-23
 - a. The significance of _____ v. 23

- III. Joseph, the _____ - vs. 24-25
 - a. The _____ of Joseph – v. 24
 - b. The _____ of the baby – v. 25

- IV. Takeaways
 - a. Joseph obeyed and submitted to God’s ordained _____ for his life at this point in his life.
 - b. Joseph was confronted with a personal _____ between his pride and his faith.
 - c. There is a human struggle presented to us in the narrative about Joseph where we can turn and run or we can _____ the Holy Spirit to guide us through the steps of learning how to depend upon God one step at a time.
 - d. Don’t quit after taking step one, or step two, or step ? Just keep taking the _____ step until God fulfills His purposes.

What, then, is the lesson? Could it be that God took Joseph through a season of difficulties to demonstrate to the world that you do not have to be front and center to be used by God? In one of the most important events of human history, Joseph played a key role in the incarnation of the Savior of the world! And he did not receive any accolades and not even a single word from his mouth is recorded. In addition, he played second fiddle known only as the “husband of Mary.” And yet, the silent man stands tall, on the pages of our bible, to teach us about integrity, honor, obedience, perseverance to the call of God, and faith.