

Moments at the Manger

Joseph did what the angel of the Lord commanded him.
Matthew 1:24



Introduction:

- As we stand at the manger that first Christmas night, surrounded by the main characters in heaven's drama, we have a moment with Joseph.
- From Mary, we learned that she might say to us: "God loves to choose the unlikely...and then do the impossible!"
- This morning, to learn what Joseph might have to say to us, we'll look at every passage of Scripture in which he is mentioned, make a couple of simple observations, and finally draw two compelling lessons from his life.

The Problem of Mary's Pregnancy: Matthew 1:18-25

- Joseph could have _____
_____ (Deuteronomy 22:20,21)
- Joseph could have _____
_____ (Deuteronomy. 24:1)
- But God told Joseph to _____
_____ (v. 20-23)
- Joseph _____ what the angel said
(v. 24)

The Dilemma with the Emperor's Decree: Luke 2:1-5

Fulfilling Old Testament Law: Luke 2:21-24

The Christ who would bring all the law to its true and complete fulfillment followed in the footsteps of an earthly stepfather who took obedience to God seriously.

George Beverly Shea, **The Wonder of It All**, 1985

Moving To and From Egypt: Matthew 2:13-15; 19-21

A Few Simple Observations

- Joseph never _____.
- Every time he is mentioned, Joseph is _____.

A Couple of Lessons For All of Us

1. Trust and obedience are _____.

If we don't *trust* God:

We'll never _____ our choices and destinies to His purposes.

If we don't *obey* God:

We'll never see the _____ things He wishes to accomplish in our lives.

*Each step
Joseph took
seemed to reveal
God's next step
for him.*

2. God only reveals His plan one _____ at a time.

God won't reveal His _____ to a person who ignores the simple commands of His Word in the _____.

Conclusion:

Joseph: "You will never _____ being obedient to God!"