

December 20, 2021

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

For most of my spiritual life, my instinctual reaction to this passage has been to put on my proverbial Joseph hat and place him in our modern times. How would I react to news that my virgin fiancé was pregnant? One would struggle not to be incredulous, and further struggle to not annul the engagement. This season, I took time to consider another approach to the story. Joseph's role in the birth of Jesus is squarely in the secondary cast of characters. How many Renaissance master paintings do you recall of Joseph and Jesus? Surely Kairos member Walter DuPre knows several, but nothing comes to mind for me. And yet, here in this story we all know, God sends an angel to visit Joseph in a dream to ensure that he remain faithful and understand the significance of what is to come. Joseph's supportive role is so important that God reveals His plans for their family through an angel.

I am struck by two significant elements to this passage: (1) Joseph's supportive role, however less significant than Mary's, still involved divine intervention from God. (2) Joseph's reaction to this dream was to immediately change his plans and follow the words of the Lord. To seriously consider the words from an angel in his dream, Joseph was clearly listening for and open to receiving God's message. In this season of anticipation and celebration, this passage encourages me to listen faithfully for God and to be ready and willing to play whatever role He has in mind – especially one of support for my loved ones.

How ready are you to serve others for God's glory?

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the opportunity to love others as a reflection of Your love. Help us to be receptive to whatever path you have planned for us. Amen.

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