

December 16, 2022

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

You have likely heard or read this passage many times over the years as it describes the birth of Jesus. I'm not sure that I have ever really taken time to think about the birth of Christ from his earthly father, Joseph's, perspective. We so often focus on Mary, how she is approached by an angel and told that she will carry the Son of God. In this passage, we learn more about what Joseph experiences as it relates to his son's birth. The faithfulness of both Mary and Joseph is extraordinary. Joseph, a gentle and righteous man, accepts his role in becoming the father of the Son of God. Though he was likely afraid of staying engaged and marrying a woman who conceived a child before marriage, he followed the commands of the angel. He truly listened to the Lord, followed the plan laid before him, and trusted that all would be well.

Have you ever found yourself in a moment where you felt a nudge from God or heard God speaking clearly to you about something, but thought, "Surely this is not for me?" It is challenging to fully trust that God is in control of our lives and will guide and direct us if we truly listen. When we feel called to do something, it requires us to take action, just as Joseph took action to take Mary home as his wife and trusted that all would be well with the birth of their son, Jesus. To accept that God might have something planned for our lives, even if we do not believe it, want it, or feel that it is right, can be so difficult. During this Christmas season, I pray that each of us is truly listening, with our ears open, as Joseph's were, to the call of our Heavenly Father. Whether you feel a nudge in a small way, or hear angels of the Lord in very loud ways calling you to do something, I pray that you accept it and act upon those instincts. So often we want to live by rules and boundaries of our society, but may we be a trusting and faithful people who are gentle, righteous, and faithful as Joseph.

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