



The Silent Surrogate: Joseph

Sermon by Father Chuck Owens | Matthew 1:18–25

“The Silent Surrogate: Joseph”

Thoughts to Ponder

1. Do you have a creche, a model representing the scene of Jesus’ birth?
 - a. If so, please share how you came to have it?
 - b. Describe it in as much detail as you can.
 - c. Which pieces are the most and least important in your mind?

Read Matthew 1:18-25

2. What does Matthew’s Gospel tell you about Joseph?
 - a. What else have you been told about Joseph?
 - b. Joseph has been described as the most remarkable man in the Bible; why do think some might think that about him?
3. Do you know any real carpenters? If so, please describe the physical and emotional characteristics they have in common.
 - a. Please describe how you see Joseph physically and why.
 - b. What does his shop look like? What does he make?
 - c. What do you believe his reputation was in Nazareth and why?
4. Matthew tells us that Joseph was a “righteous man.”
 - a. What does that mean and why did Matthew say that about Joseph?
 - b. Would others describe you as being a righteous person? Why or why not?

5. What kind of relationship do you believe Joseph had with God?
 - a. Describe your relationship with God, strengths and weaknesses.
 - b. How might you strengthen both?
6. God chose Joseph to be His human surrogate and pattern for influencing Jesus' early years.
 - a. What does that statement mean to you?
 - b. Would God have chosen you for such a role? Why or why not?
7. Compare your father to the kind of father you think Joseph was in as much detail as you are willing.

