CHARACTER TRAITS

To Cultivate In Life

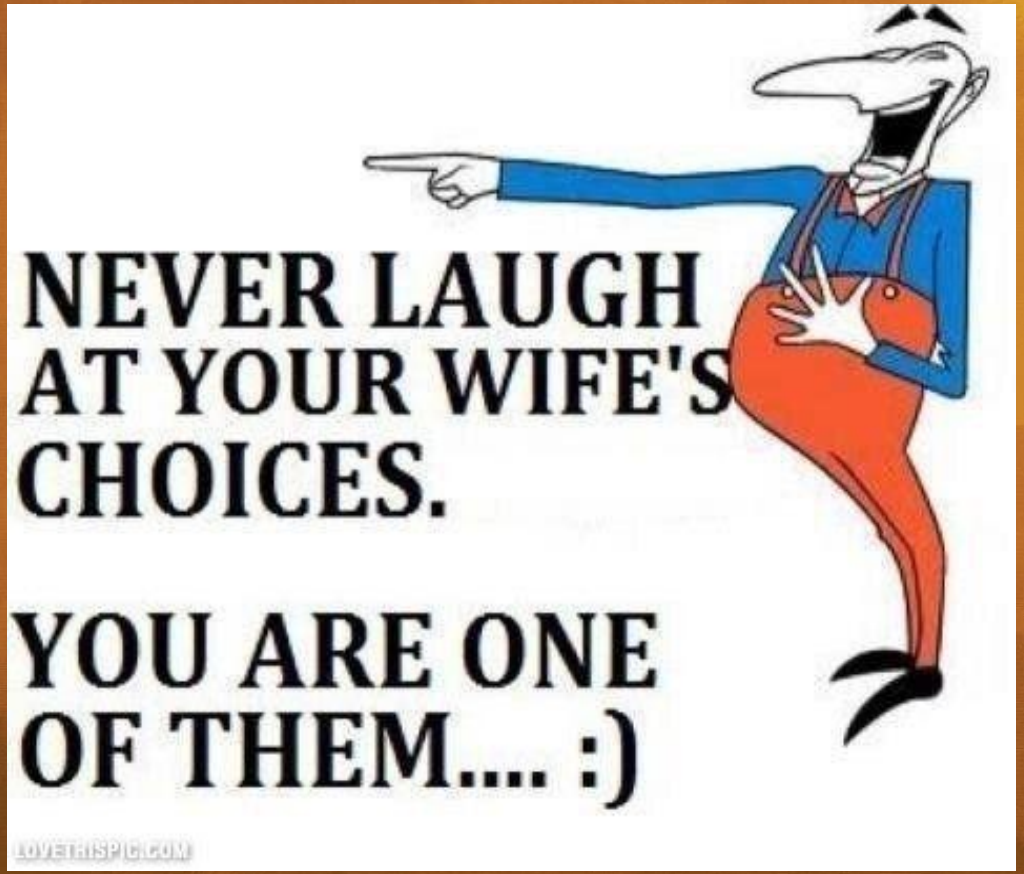
MATT 1:18-24

PATRICK STEPHEN

18 JUNE 2023


The Stephen
Family


Happy
Father's Day


NEVER LAUGH
AT YOUR WIFE'S
CHOICES.
YOU ARE ONE
OF THEM.... :)
LOVETHISPIC.COM

Introduction

Why Joseph :

- God was the true “Father” of Jesus.
- But Jesus needed to be born in an earthy family and grow up in an earthly family.
- So, the choice of who was going to be his earthly father was also important.

Introduction

Why Joseph :

- **This was the home :**
  - **Jesus was grow up in**
  - **learn a trade**
  - **work until he was called into ministry at 30 years of age**

Introduction

Why Joseph :

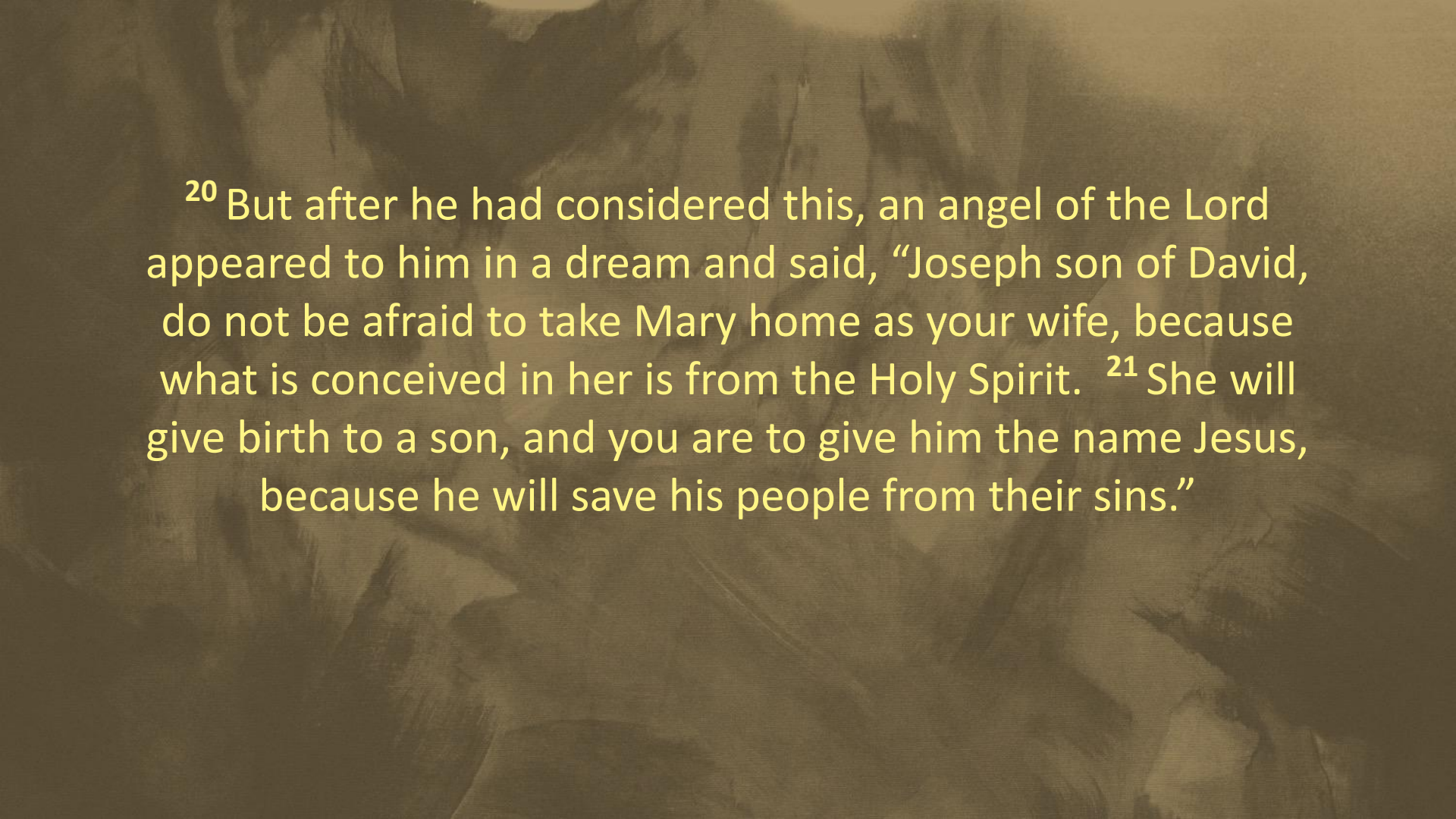
- **His environment would be determined by the earthly father.**

Three Character Traits of Joseph

1) Righteous conduct seasoned with grace
2) Responsive to God regardless of risk
3) Reliable through the seasons of life

MATTHEW 1:18-25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because
what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will
give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said
through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and
give birth to a son, and they will call him
Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When
Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord
had commanded him and took Mary home as his
wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage
until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the
name Jesus.

MATTHEW 1:18-25 (NIV)



"A Pharisee
is hard on others
and easy on
himself, but
a spiritual man
is easy on
others and
hard on himself."

A.W.Tozer

1) **Righteous Conduct Seasoned With Grace**

- Woman he was engaged to was pregnant
- He had to do something
- He planned to divorce her quietly.
- He wanted to do the right thing but be gracious : gentleman at heart

1) Righteous Conduct Seasoned With Grace

- Joseph exercised self control
- Joseph was careful to obey the Law

LUKE 2:21-24 (NIV)

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. 22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

[23] (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), [24] and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

LUKE 2:21-24 (NIV)

1) Righteous Conduct Seasoned With Grace

- **A Modern Day Example : A Christian Boss**

2) Responsive to God regardless of risk

- We do not know how long he lived.

- **When God spoke, Joseph acted accordingly** to 4 dreams given to him :
  - The first time, it was to take Mary as his wife. (*Luke 2:24*)
    - There must have been considerable arrangements to make.

2) Responsive to God regardless of risk

- When God spoke, Joseph acted accordingly to 4 dreams given to him:
  - **Naming of Jesus**
    - He **gave the baby the name "Jesus"** as instructed by the angel.
    - *Matthew 1:21*

2) Responsive to God regardless of risk

- When God spoke, Joseph acted accordingly to 4 dreams given to him :
  - **Instructions to Move**
    - *Matthew 2:13-14*
    - He seems to have taken action, very fast to obey.

MATTHEW 2:13-14 (NIV)

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt . . .

2) Responsive to God regardless of risk

- When God spoke, Joseph acted accordingly to 4 dreams given to him :
  - Later he had 2 other dreams that led him to Nazareth.
  - It may have been inconvenient, even dangerous. But he obeyed.

2) Responsive to God regardless of risk

An example : Story of Philip & Christina





3) Reliable through the Seasons of Life

- Decision not to divorce Mary - implications
- A tough journey to Bethlehem

LUKE 2:1-7 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was
pledged to be married to him and was expecting a
child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the
baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a
son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a
manger, because there was no guest room available
for them.

LUKE 2:1-7 (NIV)

3) Reliable through the Seasons of Life

- **A tough journey to Bethlehem**
  - Finding a room
  - Staying in a manger
  - Relocating to a Egypt
  - bringing them to safety despite challenges

3) Reliable through the Seasons of Life

- Known family unit : **the Carpenter's son**

Matthew 13:55

"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers - James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?

3) Reliable through the Seasons of Life

- A missing child

LUKE 2:41-46 (NIV)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the
Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years
old, they went up to the festival, according to the
custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents
were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in
Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on
for a day. Then they began looking for him among
their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find
him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for
him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple
courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them
and asking them questions.

LUKE 2:41-46 (NIV)

3) Reliable through the Seasons of Life

- **A missing child**
  - Every year they went to temple. (*Luke 2:41*)
  - When Jesus was 12, they brought him along. (*Luke 2:42*)
  - When Jesus was lost, they spent 3 days looking for him.

3) Reliable through the Seasons of Life

- A missing child
  - An example :
    Story of Clarenc



Conclusion

- Joseph's life showed character traits that made him a man God could use :
  1) Righteous conduct seasoned with grace.
  2) Responsive to God regardless of risk.
  3) Reliable through the seasons of

Conclusion

May we seek to cultivate these.


Let's Pray