



**Courageous Manhood: Radical Faith and Obedience!**  
*The amazing story of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus our LORD*  
June 19, 2022  
[Happy Father's Day!](#)

**Holy Text: Matthew 1:18-25**

We are living in interesting times as it relates to manhood. In the last two or three generations, we have seen a marked shift in how people perceive men, husbands, and fathers. There was a time where a man was very obviously the loving head of his household and the perception was his wife and children could thrive under his kind wisdom and provision.

Somewhere along the line, we went from *Father Knows Best* (where manhood and fatherhood were venerated) to *Married with Children* (where manhood became an ungodly caricature) to *The Modern Family* (where we don't even know what manhood is anymore)!

Shouts of “down with the patriarchy” and “the future is female” flood social media and men, increasingly, are confused about what to do, what to say, and what they are allowed to do. Some are simply checking out of marriage and family altogether.

Even the church, a place where traditionally, men were held in honor due to their call to lead, has seen an outflow of men because of the loss of basic respect for God's design. Some men feel they carry the responsibilities of manhood, but not the authority of manhood. Brothers and sisters this should not be. For our families, our churches, and indeed our society to function properly, we need both men and women to function as God designed!<sup>1</sup>

The truth is we don't need less biblical manhood, we need more! We need godly men now more than ever...men who will train their children in God's fear and admonition and love their wives as Christ loved the church! I am SO grateful to serve in a church so many of these types of brothers! BROTHERHOOD!

**Initial thoughts:**

1. Our subject today is Joseph bar (“son of” in Aramaic) Jacob. He is a very interesting and quite unsung character in the biblical narrative.
2. Of course, “Jacob” is not the patriarch Jacob, who also had a much beloved son, Joseph (who was sold into slavery in Egypt, Gen 37). (Note, there are some other parallels however, not the least of which is both Joseph's penchant for dreams! See below...)
3. Joseph was a noble man from a noble lineage. Scriptures describes him as coming from the house of David. (Matt 1:1-17)
4. He lived in Galilee (Nazareth).
5. He was a carpenter by trade. (Matt 13:55)
6. Of course, he was betrothed (and eventually married) Mary, mother of Jesus.
7. Besides these things, we know very little of his history. Yet we can easily glean the kind of courage Joseph possessed. As we study Joseph, remember some of the many Biblical precepts concerning men, husbands and fathers. Let us honor CRC men, who humbly and courageously walk in such obedience...

**Thank the LORD for CRC Men and those like you! You Courageously...**

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<sup>1</sup> Carlton C. McLeod, *The Biblically Healthy Household*, 2021, p. 71.

## 1. Bear the **responsibility** for your family!

- An unpopular truth, but men are leaders and are thus responsible for their families. It is a responsibility that man cannot delegate. We see this clearly from the creation of man. Adam was held responsible for Eve's sin, for the fall of mankind!

**Genesis 3:6-9 (KJV)** *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

**1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (KJV)** *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

**Romans 5:12 (KJV)** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:are*

**Romans 5:17 (KJV)** *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

- Scripture even describes mens' responsibility for the vows their wives and daughters made! (Num 30)
- **Thank you CRC men for your Courageous example! You bear the weight well and inspire many!**

## 2. **Lead** your family!

- Paul wrote to Corinth:

**1 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV)** *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*

**1 Corinthians 11:8-9 (KJV)** *For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.*

- Such leadership is to be done sacrificially and in love as Christ loves the church and with great passion and great diligence:

**Ephesians 5:25 (KJV)** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

**Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (KJV)** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

- **Thank you CRC men for your Courageous leadership!**

### 3. **Provide** for your family!

- In Scripture, a woman's primary focus is domestic (Prov 31:27; 1 Tim 5:14; Titus 2:5). The burden of provision is upon men. This is God's good design.

*1 Timothy 5:8 (KJV) But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

- **Thank you CRC men for your work ethic and care for your household!**

### 4. **Protect** your family!

- Just as the normative biblical practice was for men to go out to battle...

*Numbers 1:2-3 (KJV) Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls; 3 From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.*

- ...so it is that men are charged with protecting their homes as well!
- Principally, a husband and a father must be the “strong man” who guards his home lest the enemy spoil it! (Matt 12:29)
- **Thank you CRC men for diligently guarding your homes and being willing to lay down your lives to protect them!**

### 5. Teach your **wives**!

- God wants His daughters to be constant and passionate learners! One of the jobs of a husband is to teach. This isn't about whose smarter; it's about God's perfect design!

*1 Timothy 2:11-12 (KJV) Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

*1 Corinthians 14:34-35 (KJV) Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

- **Thank you CRC men for gently instructing and modeling godliness for your wives and daughters!**

### 6. Teach your **children**!

- God commands fathers to instruct their children!

*Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

*Psalms 78:5-8 (KJV) For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their*

children: **6** That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: **7** That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: **8** And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

- **From family worship to church attendance, reading with them to ensuring a godly education, Thank you CRC men for, by God’s grace, raising up a generation that will declare, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done!”**

## 7. Declare God’s **truth** in and over your family!

- Concerning Abraham, God says...

**Genesis 18:19 (KJV)** For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

- Like Jacob who prophesied over his sons and declared their future, fathers must “prophesy!” They must speak God’s Word and inspire courage and faith!
- **Thank you CRC men for boldly declaring the precepts, principles, and patterns of God—all of His promises—over your households!**

## The Radical Obedience and Faith of Joseph bar Jacob!

1. Matthew 1:18-25 is a beloved Text in our church. It not only summarizes the birth of our Savior, but it names His wonderful Name (v.21):
  - Jesus is *īēsous* in Greek. *īēsous* is the Greek transliteration (way of writing) the Hebrew name *Yeshua* or *Yehoshua*.
  - The English spelling of *Yeshua* is “Joshua” and the English spelling of *īēsous* is “Jesus.”
  - **Jesus (Joshua in Hebrew) literally means “Jehovah is Salvation.”**
  - God Himself showed up to save His people!
2. This Text also tells us His holy mission (“...for he shall save his people from their sins.” v.21), and teaches His deity: His name is “**Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Isa 7:14)
3. But what is often lost because of the glory of these verses is their first hearer: **Jospeh!** These truths were delivered to Joseph that He might believe...
  - Obviously, Joseph could not understand how Mary could be with child since they had not come together.
  - Remember that biblical espousal or betrothal was a much more serious thing than modern engagement. By being espoused to Mary, Joseph was already considered her lawful husband in all things except physical intimacy, which must wait until the betrothal period ended.
  - For Mary to be pregnant was akin to adultery. Hence the “putting away” language in v.19.
  - Indeed, we read that Joseph was as just (or righteous) man. (v.19)
  - Nevertheless, he had a merciful heart, desiring to divorce her quietly. Mary could have been stoned via the Law...

**Deuteronomy 22:20-21 (KJV)** *But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel: 21 Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.*

4. So what kind of man was Joseph that God kept speaking to him in **dreams**? Did you realize how many times the LORD did this in Matthew 1&2?

**Matthew 1:20 (KJV)** *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a **dream**, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

**Matthew 2:13-14 (KJV)** *And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a **dream**, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.*

**Matthew 2:19-21 (KJV)** *But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a **dream** to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.*

**Matthew 2:22-23 (KJV)** *But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a **dream**, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.*

5. Here are a few things we might learn from Joseph and these Texts:

- First, God spoke to Joseph several times through dreams. God respected the order he had set up. As Mary's earthly head, provider, and protector, Joseph was critical to God's redemptive **plan**. This is true for the men in the room as well, particularly the husbands and fathers. If your home is functioning biblically, you men are key to how God moves through your family!
- Second, Joseph was "just" or inclined towards righteousness. God didn't just pick anyone to raise Jesus; He picked a **godly** man with honor and integrity.
- Third, Joseph was **merciful**. Even while enduring the shame of her "unfaithfulness" and "unplanned pregnancy," he desired to protect her and the child from death.
- Fourth, Joseph was **obedient**! Each time God spoke to him, he obeyed!
- Fifth, Joseph was radically obedient by **faith**. God asked of Him very difficult things!
  - He did take Mary as his wife. Can you imagine the gossip and slander? Joseph obeyed anyway!
  - He took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Depending on their route, that's 200-300 miles!
  - He took Mary and Jesus back to Israel. Another arduous journey of hundreds of miles!

- He listened to precisely where the family was supposed to go!

**Last Word**

- Fathers! Are you listening to God? Are you on your face? Do you know when to go to Egypt and when to return?
- Do you realize how important you are to your family? You are the leader!
- God used supernatural measures to convince Joseph of Mary's veracity and purity, and direct Joseph and the family's movements!
- Men...your prayer life is critical! Your sense of God's direction is crucial! Your willingness to obey by faith is foundational to how God uses your family!
- Be like Joseph. When God speaks (through His Word and by His Spirit), move. Believe. Trust.
- Even if you have to sacrifice. Even when others mock and slander. Even when you doubt yourself.
- Walk in radical faith and obedience. May it be so...

Amen!