



## **Part 4 - Christmas Courage**

### **Matthew 1:18-24**

#### **Courage Trait #1 - God Takes Ordinary People And Produces Courageous People**

Most Christians are not going to be famous, have a place of authority nor be rich in the world's eyes. They can, however, become very important in proclaiming the good news of the gospel of Christ as long as they are willing to seek the will of the Lord through the written Word of God and obey what the Holy Spirit of Christ calls them to do.

The Holy Spirit gives this exhortation through the writings of the Apostle Peter in I Peter 2:9:

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

It has been said, "God takes ordinary people and does extraordinary things through them."

#### **Courage Trait #2 - It Takes Courage To Live A Life Of Righteousness**

The sacred Scriptures describe Joseph as being a "righteous man." What does that mean?

He is called a "righteous" man, which for Matthew does not imply sinless perfection but regularly refers to one who is law-abiding, upright in character, and generally obedient and faithful to God's commandments. (Blomberg, C. (1992). Matthew (Vol. 22, p. 58). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)

Joseph knew the consequence of being accused of adultery and he most likely knew how the world of his day handled those accused of it. Those accused and convicted were met with public disgrace.

- In Joseph's day, the Joseph who had the coat of many colors, in Egypt the punishment was

cutting of the nose.

- In Persia, the punishment was cutting of the nose and ears.
- In Judea, the punishment could have meant being stoned to death.
- In Joseph's day, most often a certificate of divorce stated the reason for the divorce. According to Deuteronomy 24:1, Joseph, from what he could see in the present circumstance *before his dream*, had every Biblical right to write a certificate of divorce.

### **Courage Trait #3 - It Takes Courage To Follow God's Direction For Your Life**

Matthew 1:20-21

Matthew 2:13-15

Matthew 2:19-21

Matthew 2:22-23