

Walking With The Characters of Christmas
“Joseph: A Man Who Took Risks To Follow God”

(Part 3)

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I. Joseph Risked His _____ To Follow God

Matt. 1:19-21,24-25 “Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins... When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.” (NLT)

A. Joseph risked people never _____ his decision to follow God

B. Following God often requires us to risk our reputations

Prov. 29:25 “Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.” (NLT)

Matt. 16:25 “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” (NLT)

Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.” (NLT)

II. Joseph Risked His _____ To Follow God

Matt. 2:13-14 “After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother...” (NLT)

A. Joseph left everything _____ to follow God

B. Following God often requires us to abandon the familiar

Heb. 11:8 “It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.” (NLT)

Luke 9:62 “But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” (NLT)

III. Joseph Risked _____ To Follow God

Matt. 2:19-23 “When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead. So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth.” (NLT)

A. Joseph risked rejection to move his family back home to Nazareth

B. Following God often requires us to risk rejection from _____

Matt. 10:37-39 “Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me. "If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.” (Message)

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Page 2