



Interesting Men in the Bible: Joseph

There are a few characters in the Bible that don't say anything such as Abel and the quiet man: Joseph. It's hard to imagine that Jesus earthly father did not say anything. We know that he is a carpenter. There are references to who his own father is, yet, not one word. In-fact Jesus never mentions His father on earth, only His Father in heaven. Jesus spends time with His mother. The Bible let's Mary speak. Yet, Joseph is silent.

Matthew mentions Joseph. In reality, it's the only real story and acknowledgment we get of who this man was. He is not mentioned in the Book of Mark at all. Jesus is called Mary's son. In the Book of Luke, only in passing, is Joseph talked about. It says that Jesus was Joseph's son. John's gospel tells the same thing as Luke. How did Joseph feel about losing the Son of God in Jerusalem? How did he feel when they young Jesus said He was in His Father's house and that they should have figured that out? Beyond that event in Jesus twelfth year, Joseph is never heard from again.

Did he die? Could Joseph have left the family? Why is Joseph silent in the Bible? I suppose some would say that he recognized his position in the heavenly realm. Joseph is lower than God. To be the earthly father of the Risen Lord is no small task. There is an incident where they call Jesus "the" carpenter's son. Is that present tense? What if Joseph is still alive but silent in the back ground? We assume that because he says nothing that he was nothing. Not a single

bad word is mentioned about the earthly father of Jesus. Yet, Gods actions towards this man says a lot.

In some ways it's not fair. Mary is called the highly favored one. She gets to sing and say something. Joseph must take a back seat to his star wife. This man has to be humble. So humble as to keep his pregnant wife regardless of how it looks. She was a virgin yet; the child is not his. He is the earthly father, yet he must take second place to God. Joseph is; however, highly favored. An angel visits him as well. Mary doubts the angel. The father of John the Baptist doubts the angel. Yet, Joseph does what is asked of him. Through a series of dreams Joseph is asked to keep his wife; go to Egypt and return. Each time the Bible says he got up and did it. Joseph was called to protect Jesus and not so much to be a father. That does not mean, in the slightest, that he was not able to father Jesus. They all said Jesus was his son.

I feel this man was great because of his silence. You could call it faith and obeisance. The Bible says many things about this man without him saying a word. In Matthew, the Bible says he was faithful to the Jewish law. He was an honorable man faithfully going to the census town of his birth. He was faithful to Mary when she told him the story of her pregnancy. This man was faithful to God when he was asked to name Jesus; go to Egypt and return home afterwards. Yes, Joseph remained silent but his character spoke large.

Joseph listened to God. How many of us want God to listen to us? Do we do what is asked of us or do we wait. Joseph saved Jesus and protected him and Mary. Joseph acted on his instructions. He was never depicted as questioning or complaining. I said that he is a man who was devoted to the law. Within that Joseph was devoted to God. So, when God called Joseph accepted his role. We can't say for sure that he liked the role. We don't know if he ever complained. Yet, others did grumble and complain. Joseph was silent towards what God wanted

from him. This man took responsibility for the mission he was given. There are no words but there are many words like honorable, obedient, and faithful speak loudly.

Joseph will forever be remembered in the line of Jesus. He is not in the birth line but in the same line as Moses and Joseph of Genesis. Men who were placed in a role they probably would not have chosen. That goes for John the Baptist and Stephan the first Martyr for Christ. Paul didn't ask for his role. Yet, God chose Joseph and he responded. The humbleness of this man is crazy. Pitted against scandal of a virgin pregnancy. Going to Egypt was probably a surprise to his family. Being called repeatedly "not the father." How does he tell everyone to call his son Jesus? Yes, angels told me too! Who is the name Jesus in respect too? Why is Jesus not called Joseph or Bob? No, Joseph was an honorable and humble man who listened to God when he called. Who needs to say words when your actions speak louder!