

JOSEPH: THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND PROPHECIES FULFILLED

Matthew 1:18-25

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do we mean when we describe someone as righteous?
- What is a prophecy? How do we know when one is fulfilled?

Studying Joseph and his role in the Christmas story helps us prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming by helping us understand God's perspective on what it means to be righteous. Joseph helps us see what it looks like to trust God, follow his will, and live out our faith. Reflecting on the miracle of the virgin birth and recognizing how Matthew helps us see the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies also gives us the confidence to trust God's consistency, presence, and faithfulness throughout our lives.

Listen: [*Joseph: The Virgin Birth and Prophecies Fulfilled*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In this series, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney observe that when God calls a person to participate in something special, like Mary and Joseph or Zechariah and Elizabeth, God's call almost always complicates life rather than makes it easier. Does this reflect your experience? Do you think people commonly expect that Christians will have a harder life? Or do you think people expect that life will be easier as Christians or that problems will go away when they become Christians?
- Consider Darrell's observation about righteousness from segment 2. "Christ comes in and redefines what righteousness really is. It is not by the externals, it is not by the achievements, but it is by the grace that is given to one to say yes to the Lord's will... This is an option he [Joseph] didn't see coming." How does this help clarify God's understanding of righteousness for you? How does Darrell and Scott's discussion of Joseph's righteousness in segment 2 help us prepare our hearts for Christ's second coming?
- Can you think of examples from your life or experience that reflect God taking the low road, the quiet way, or the surprising way to accomplish his plan and his will in the world?
- What encouragement, comfort, or insight did you receive or gain from this study of Joseph?

Related Passages

- Hosea 11
- Isaiah 7:14
- Psalm 1
- Matthew 28:16-20

- **Matthew 25:31-46**
- **John 16:33**

Conclusion

Reflect on Scott's statement from segment 3:

"Sometimes we represent Christ and we preach the gospel by being present. Jesus said: I was in prison and you visited me; so we go to the prisons, and we are with them...We are God's presence; we are God with them, right? We go to the hospital to visit the sick; we go to the funeral home to visit the grieving; we go to the widow's house to visit the lonely. All of that is our participating through the Holy Spirit, in this Immanuel idea. So, we preach the gospel by being with people in the sad and difficult situations of their lives."

How and where can you be God's presence here on earth? Who can you be present with? Pray for God to stir your heart to recognize opportunities to preach the gospel by simply being present with others in your daily life.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/joseph-the-virgin-birth-and-prophecies-fulfilled>

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