

December 17 | Sunday

Advent: The Joy We Can't Yet See

Read [Matthew 1:18-25](#)



18 | Mon – Silent partner | Read [Matthew 1:18-19](#)

Look at a typical Nativity scene and Joseph is usually portrayed like a supporting cast member, standing quietly in the background. In this drama, he has no 'lines.' There is no place in the gospels where we can read any words spoken by Joseph...but that does not stop us from learning what kind of man he was. His actions, his choices speak loudly of his character. Are you the kind of person whose life tells others what you are like, before you even talk?

19 | Tue – Broken dreams | Read [Matthew 1:20-25](#)

We have the benefit of know how the story ended but Joseph did not. Imagine the pain he must have felt, watching his dreams come crashing down, but Joseph did not let it deter him from doing the right thing in his relationship with Mary. Joseph acted on the words of hope spoken to him as he slept. A new and bigger joy was ahead - he was being entrusted to parent God's son! Are you willing to let God 'smash' your dreams in order to give you something that will bring you more joy than you could imagine?

20 | Wed – Random isn't always random | Read [Luke 2:1-5](#) and [Micah 5:2](#)

The people of Judea lived at the whim of their Roman rulers. This census decree, originating hundreds of miles away in Rome, inadvertently determined where Mary's baby would be born. Or did it? Read Micah's words, written nearly 700 years earlier, to see for yourself. Are there times when the decisions of others cause irreversible change in your life? Joseph may have felt helpless to protect Mary but he would later see it was part of God's plan. Can you?

21 | Thu – Jesus, with us | Read [Luke 2:6-7](#)

These two short verses simply describe the most significant event in all of human history...God coming to earth as a baby. In the Old Testament, people saw God's power and responded with respect but also fear. In Jesus, God came to reveal Himself to us in a way we could understand. Who is afraid of a newborn? What heart doesn't melt while holding a baby? That God would go to this extreme speaks of His great passion to be in relationship with you and His desire for you to know and truly understand His character and His good heart. Are you open to that?

22 | Fri – Willing to give it up | Read [Luke 2:41-51](#) and [Matthew 13:54-57](#)

When Jesus was 12 years old, Joseph took his family to Jerusalem for the Passover. Many scholars believe that Joseph died sometime between this event and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. One might assume that Joseph sacrificed his dream for children of his own in order to raise God's son but check out Matthew 13:55. When God asks for the first, the best, and you willingly say yes, you might be surprised by the joy God gives you in return!

23 | Sat – The joy you don't yet see | Read [Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Why did Matthew begin his account by listing Joseph and Jesus' family tree? Remember the promises God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Generations came and went as they waited for the joy they could not yet see and Joseph was one of those waiting. He did not live to see Jesus revealed as the promised Messiah but Joseph believed God's words and faithfully did what God asked him to do. What about you? Do not let the troubles of life rob you of the joy you can have right now, as you wait for the amazing things God has in store!