

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE JOSEPH AS THE EARTHLY FATHER OF JESUS?

(Matthew 1–2; Luke 1–2)

INTRODUCTION

When we think of Christmas, we often focus on Mary — the highly favoured one. Yet, standing quietly beside her is a man whose life speaks volumes, though he never speaks a recorded word in Scripture: **Joseph**, the earthly father entrusted to raise the Son of God.

Why Joseph? Out of all the men living in Israel at that time — priests, scholars, leaders — **why did God place His only begotten Son under the care, protection, and leadership of this humble carpenter from Nazareth?**

Today we explore from Scripture **the divine reasons God chose Joseph**, and what this teaches us about **godly fatherhood, obedience, character, and spiritual responsibility**.

1. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE WAS A JUST AND RIGHTEOUS MAN

“Joseph... being a just man...” — Matthew 1:19

- The Greek word *dikaios* means righteous, upright, honourable, honest.
- Joseph lived in integrity even before the remarkable calling came.
- God always entrusts His greatest assignments to hearts already aligned with His character.

Joseph’s righteousness was seen in:

- His **moral purity** — he kept the marriage covenant with honour.
- His **compassionate heart** — he did not want to shame Mary publicly though he thought she had betrayed him.
- His **love for God’s law** — yet balanced with grace.

Lesson:

God looks not for giftedness first, but godliness. Divine assignments rest on the shoulders of righteous character.

2. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE WAS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS

“...not willing to make her a public example...” — Matthew 1:19

Under the law, Joseph could have:

- Publicly exposed Mary,
- Brought her before the elders,
- Or even demanded severe punishment.

But Joseph chose mercy over wrath — grace over legalism.

God needed a father for Jesus who reflected *His own heart*:

- “The Lord is **merciful and gracious**, slow to anger...” (Psalm 103:8)
- “His mercy is over all His works.” (Psalm 145:9)

Lesson:

No home can manifest the purposes of God without mercy. Joseph’s mercy made him fit to raise the One who would bring mercy to the whole world.

3. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE LISTENED TO GOD’S VOICE

Joseph received **four dreams** (Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 2:19; 2:22).
Every time the angel spoke, **Joseph heard and understood**.

Many men pray. Few *listen*.

Joseph was a man whose spiritual ears were uncluttered, tuned, sensitive.

God needed a father who could:

- Discern divine guidance
- Recognize heaven’s instructions
- Perceive danger
- Respond to warnings

Lesson:

Godly fatherhood requires the ability to hear God clearly for your family.

4. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE OBEYED IMMEDIATELY AND COMPLETELY

“Joseph... did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” — Matthew 1:24

There is not a single moment Joseph hesitated or negotiated.

Consider his obedience:

1. **He took Mary as his wife** despite misunderstanding from society.

2. **He fled to Egypt** at night to protect Jesus.
3. **He returned to Israel** when God told him.
4. **He settled in Nazareth** according to divine direction.

Joseph's obedience was:

- Prompt
- Exact
- Costly
- Silent
- Faith-filled

Lesson:

God chooses not the loud, but the obedient. Not the famous, but the faithful.

5. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE COULD PROTECT JESUS

From Herod's rage to the long journey to Egypt, Jesus' life was continually under threat.

Joseph protected Jesus by:

- Obeying divine warnings
- Relocating instantly
- Working tirelessly to provide
- Safeguarding Mary and the Child

He became:

- **The shield of the Holy Family**
- **The guardian of the Messiah**
- **The steward of the divine promise**

Lesson:

True fatherhood is protective, courageous, sacrificial. Joseph was trusted with heaven's greatest treasure.

6. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE PROVIDED A HUMBLE, GOD-HONOURING HOME

Jesus was not born in a palace, but in a carpenter's home. This was intentional.

In Joseph's house, Jesus would learn:

- Hard work
- Honesty
- Humility
- Scripture (Deut. 6:6–9)
- Worship (synagogue attendance)
- Family order
- Respect and discipline

Joseph shaped the environment in which Jesus grew in:

- Wisdom
- Stature
- Favour with God and man (Luke 2:52)

Lesson:

Homes matter. Values matter. Ordinary faithfulness creates extraordinary destinies.

7. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE WAS FROM THE LINE OF DAVID

“Joseph... son of David...” — Matthew 1:20

The Messiah had to come through:

- The tribe of Judah,
- The house of David (2 Samuel 7:12–16; Jeremiah 23:5).

Joseph carried the Davidic legal right to the throne.

By adopting Jesus, he **legally positioned Him as the rightful heir** to David’s kingdom.

Lesson:

God weaves His promises through generations. Your lineage and legacy matter to God.

8. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE LIVED QUIETLY BUT FAITHFULLY

Joseph has **no spoken words recorded** in Scripture — yet his life *speaks the loudest*.

He demonstrates:

- Faith without fanfare,
- Leadership without noise,
- Strength without boasting,
- Service without applause.

Lesson:

God often uses the unseen, unknown, quiet servants to fulfil His loudest purposes.

9. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE MODELLED EARTHLY FATHERHOOD FOR JESUS

Jesus would call God “Father.”

So God provided Joseph to model:

- A father’s love
- A father’s tenderness
- A father’s discipline
- A father’s work ethic
- A father’s devotion
- A father’s presence

Joseph was God’s chosen template of fatherhood for the boy Jesus.

Lesson:

Every father influences how a child perceives their Heavenly Father.

10. GOD CHOSE JOSEPH BECAUSE HE FINISHED HIS ASSIGNMENT WELL

By the time Jesus began His ministry, Joseph is no longer mentioned. His mission was complete — he raised the Messiah to adulthood.

He fulfilled his calling without:

- Complaining
- Comparing
- Seeking recognition
- Abandoning his responsibility

Lesson:

God calls us to finish our race quietly, faithfully, and wholeheartedly.

CONCLUSION

Why did God choose Joseph?

Because he embodied the characteristics needed for the greatest earthly responsibility ever entrusted to a man.

Joseph was:

- Righteous
- Merciful
- Spiritually attentive
- Obedient
- Protective
- Hardworking
- Humble
- Faithful
- Of David's lineage
- A true father in every sense

God looked at Joseph and said:

“This is the man into whose hands I will place My Son.”

APPLICATION

To fathers:

Follow Joseph — lead your home in righteousness, mercy, protection, and obedience.

To believers:

Let God find in us hearts ready for His assignments — humble, listening, and obedient.

To the Church:

Celebrate not only Mary's “yes,” but Joseph's silent, steadfast, sacrificial “yes” to God's will.