

## **Xmas Heroes Part 4 by Ps Larry Elliott**

Joseph

As we conclude our series today on Xmas Heroes let's believe that in Christ alone we find total meaning and the ultimate goal for our LIVES.

**Colossians 1:27 NKJV** "To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

SO TODAY WE ARE LOOKING AT Joseph the Husband of Mary and in my mind he is one of the unsung heroes of life.

His life exemplified (character & integrity)

**Matthew 1:16 NKJV** "And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

### Summary

- \* Joseph was a direct descendant from David, confirming Christ's lineage all the way back to Abraham.
- \* We know Joseph was not the actual father of Jesus but adopted Him upon His birth, because Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit.
- \* Joseph was prominent in the accounts surrounding Jesus' birth, flight to Egypt, and return.
- \* He is mentioned in the story of Jesus and the Temple, when Jesus was 12.
- \* And we learn that He was a gracious and generous man who kept the laws of Judaism and was well respected.
- \* He was an honourable and faithful man.
- \* Skilled as a carpenter in the small town of Nazareth, Joseph spent time teaching his son the trade as well as providing spiritual training.
- \* Jesus is very often described as working and being taught by Joseph in his carpenter's shop.
- \* This was an inherited occupation Jesus performed before going into His ministry.  
(Working with hands, develop what's in your heart)

Charity / Conviction / Compliance

### **Charity (Love)**

**Matthew 1:18-19 NKJV** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.



- ♥ The Bible doesn't tell us how old Joseph was at this time but history would indicate he was a lot older than Mary,
- ♥ I think we can accept this when we look at the wisdom and integrity he displays towards her in this situation.  
(Wait in the Lord before rushing in)
- ♥ He wasn't just religious, he had a relationship with God and believed the Love of God, it showed in the way he treated people and how he LOVED JESUS, and was a Father figure to Jesus.
- ♥ One of the primary experiences of the new birth, is receiving the LOVE OF GOD into our hearts.  
(It changes everything)
- ♥ When this happens we don't love others from our strength and ability, but from His love for us and in us.

**Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJV** "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

- ♥ It's obvious that Paul had a revelation of the fullness of God's love for Him and how it was benefiting his daily walk with JESUS.
- ♥ He was a high "D" personality and knew we don't have the capacity to love all the time in the way we want to or should.  
(I have fallen short so many times)
- ♥ So much hinges on God's LOVE and God's Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13)

**Philippians 1:8-9 NKJV** "For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,"

- ♥ Our love for God and others grows out of receiving, enjoying and walking in the LOVE God has for us individually.



## Conviction

Conviction: a firmly held belief that drives / motivates our decisions.

**It leads to a life Faithfulness and Dedication.**



We live in a world of "CONVENIENCE" and very often that can cause us to COMPROMISE our beliefs.

**Matthew 2:13-14 NKJV** "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,"

**Matthew 2:19-23 NKJV** "Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene.""

BENEFITS OF CONVICTION:

1. Brings direction and therefore CLARITY to our VISION and PURPOSE
2. Empowers our RESOLVE to see things through to completion. (When the excitement for something wears off along the journey, conviction keeps your PASSION ALIVE).
3. Helps mould our character so that I become RELIABLE and an example to those around us. (Please observe Charity comes before Conviction or it can just become STUBBORNNESS)
4. I don't just give in to everything (if you don't STAND for something you will fall for anything.)
5. It helps us to understand and develop COMPLIANCE in my daily walk.

## Compliant (Obedience)

**Matthew 1:24 NKJV** Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,"



Fulfilment of the promises of God require our obedience (Grace enables us to be complaint; isn't there to help you not be)



**Luke 2:33 NKJV** "And Joseph and His mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of Him

- # God wants us to "Marvel" at His amazing work in our lives.
- # He's planning to do some FRESH and NEW Things in us and through us.
- # Start to see something new and miraculous in our Lives!

✔ But in that let's RESOLVE to be obedient as well.

NB; **Isaiah 43:15-19 NKJV**

- # God is going to give you a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
- # Believe it and begin expect it?
- @ They speculate that Joseph may have died a natural death between their visit to the temple when Jesus was twelve and sometime just before the Baptism of Jesus when He was thirty.
- @ It would be easy to overlook Joseph as MARK does in his Gospel or even John only mentions him once
- @ And yet he was a spiritual giant, the person God actually trusted His Son to.
- @ He had no less than THREE Angel appearances and was guided by God through DREAMS

💪 He shows us the power of all who would simply be called "the Unsung Heroes" of this world.

**Luke 2:41-43 NKJV** so when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

**What does COMPLIANCE (Obedience) accomplish:**

- A. Blesses the people around us and helps them into their destiny.
- B. Obedience to God proves our love for Him (1 John 5:2-3),
- C. Demonstrates our faithfulness to Him (1 John 2:3-6),
- D. Glorifies Him in the world (1 Peter 2:12),
- E. Opens avenues of blessing for us (John 13:17).

