

## THE BEST DAD IN THE WORLD... Matthew 1

A dad is someone who  
wants to catch you before you fall  
but instead picks you up,  
brushes you off,  
and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who  
wants to keep you from making mistakes  
but instead lets you find your own way,  
even though his heart breaks in silence  
when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who  
holds you when you cry,  
scolds you when you break the rules,  
shines with pride when you succeed,  
and has faith in you even when you fail...

### **The Bible speaks a lot to Dads as well...**

**Ephesians 6:4** - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

**Proverbs 23:24** The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

Men, you accomplish this NOT with lectures, but with scriptures... The very first words of the book of Proverbs declare it... **Proverbs 1**

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—

5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, **(Parable)** The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck. **(A sign of honor)**

**Deuteronomy 6:6** - "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

**I was blessed, I was fortunate....** I was lucky to have been raised in a home with a strong Christian Dad. I hope that is your testimony too, but even if not, you and I have a chance to influence the next generation of men by being good Dads, Good grand Fathers, and good teachers and mentors of men.

My Dad raised us boys with a bible in his hands. He looked there for answers and inspiration, and to this day I look there too. My Son looks there too, and his son, Daniel is a bible reader too!

**(I quoted a proverb to My grandson Daniel many years ago, "And that's in the bible too, I said..." "No, it's not," he answered. "It's NOT?" "Nope, My Daddy reads the bible to me every night, and he hasn't read that to me..." )**

As I think about the **Fathers in the Bible** I of course think of The Heavenly Father.

- His Love is the standard!
- His grace is sufficient AND abundant.
- His words are true, tried and tested!
- He truly IS the Best Dad in the Bible, But....

I have always been intrigued with **the earthly Father of Jesus Christ, Joseph**. He is one of the few people in the Bible about whom, nothing negative is written. I also admire the way he handled about the toughest

situation a man could be in.... Finding out his fiancé was pregnant and knowing for sure the baby wasn't his.

Though little is written of this man, his response to the crisis that God put him through speaks volumes about his character...

Let's read the story we all are familiar with but read it looking at the character of Joseph.

**Matthew 1:18-25** - 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. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a **just man**, and **not wanting to make her a public example**, was minded to put her away secretly.

**20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

**22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us." **Isaiah 7:14, 9:6**

**24** Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, **did as the angel of the Lord commanded him** and took to him his wife, **25** and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

We see Joseph's heart as well in the record of Jesus' dedication in Luke 2 after the prophet, Simeon had blessed the baby, AND them.

**Luke 2:33** - And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

- The word marveled means to have admiration.
- Joseph truly admired what God was doing through his little family.

- Even though, it caused him and Mary a lot of trouble - moving his home and his business all over the place.

Here is what I notice about this famous Father, Joseph:

- 1. Joseph was a just man.** Matthew 1:19
  - a. "Just" = Innocent in character and in action...
  - b. I love that his first reaction was innocent...
  - c. Dads, we would do well to react innocently when we are upset!
- 2. Joseph was a kind man** - Mt 1:19
  - a. His choices to deal with an unfaithful fiancé were:
    - i. To divorce her...
    - ii. To have the Elders execute her...
    - iii. Or, to protect her...
  - b. Even before he heard from the Lord, he chose to protect her.
    - i. In the same circumstances Gentleman, may we be so noble.
    - ii. No wonder God chose this amazing wood worker to shape His own Son on earth!
    - iii. IF Joseph was angry, besides being embarrassed and humiliated, it sure doesn't show!
- 3. Joseph was an obedient man...**
  - a. After waking up from his vision... he immediately obeyed the message from the Lord...
  - b. AND... He had the worst honeymoon ever...
  - c. AND... He probably enjoyed watching Mary get bigger, and bigger, and bigger...
  - d. The neighbors no doubt talked...
  - e. When he entered Bethlehem with Mary, he didn't stay with family - Bethlehem was HIS hometown, he probably HAD family there.... But he protects her by trying to get a private room.
  - f. Every time the angels told him to pack up his home and carpentry shop and move.... he did!

**4. Lastly, I notice that Joseph was a quiet man...**

- a. You just don't hear of him talking a lot...
- b. He mostly spoke with his behavior...
- c. He spoke with his convictions...
- d. He spoke with his testimony of being a sensitive to Mary's honor kind of man.
- e. Joseph raised his family to believe in God and to follow truth...
- f. In the upper room, all but one member of Joseph's family was there...
  - i. Sadly, there is no record that the son named after Joseph ever accepted Jesus as his Savior...
  - ii. Many of you know what that feels like...
- g. This forgotten man of God, Joseph, seemed fine with living in the background of the life of his unique Son, the Son of God...

Men let's take the example of this Man... This **just... Kind... Obedient...** and **quiet** man of God.

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... "DAD!"