

JOSEPH DID AS COMMANDED

What makes the lesson text of (Matt.1:24-25) interesting, it is one Greek sentence with six main verbs (indicatives).

- Three are listed in (Matt.1:24) (did, commanded, took)
- Three are listed in (Matt.1:25) (kept/ did not know, gave birth, and called).

The second interesting thing is there are five Greek definite articles to identify (spot light) key people and events in the birth of Jesus Christ.

- Four are listed in (Matt.1:24) (the Joseph, the sleep, the angel of Lord, the wife)
- One listed in (Matt.1:25) (the name)

Now let's read (Matt.1:24-25) placing emphasis on the five key people and events.

We will study five aspects of "Joseph Did as Commanded."

What did the Angel of The Lord reveal to Joseph during his deep sleep that caused him to do a complete turn-around regarding his viewpoint of Mary's pregnancy and divorce?

1. First Joseph exercised primary positive volition to Gabriel's explanation of the Directive Will of God regarding Mary's pregnancy and his decision to divorce.

Next Joseph exercised secondary positive volition to the faith cycle in applying the revealed Directive Will of God regarding the issue.

Hearing (Rom.10:17)

Will (Eph.6:6)

Completing (Jas.2:22)

Believing (Heb.4:2)

Work (Jas.2:18)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7)

2. Joseph stopped walking by sight and started walking by faith (2 Cor.5:7).

This is how you avoid self-induced misery (SIM) in your life.

There are three important categories of suffering in believer's life:

- Divine discipline (Heb.12:5-1) Unconfessed personal sin (1 John 1:9)
- Undeserved suffering (Phil.1:29) Suffering for Christ Job (Jas.5:10-11) Mary
- Self-induced misery (Matt.1:18-25) Joseph

3. Joseph's walking by sight began with subjectivity of fleshly worldly thinking (1 Cor.3:18-19).

Joseph went from “wooing” to “woeing”, because of subjective thinking that resulted in a false assumption regarding Mary’s pregnancy.

Joseph’s inter-dialogue, applying with human viewpoint, resulted in walking by sight taking him down the paths of rationalism and empiricism (natural laws of copulation and pregnancy and adultery) regarding Mary’s pregnancy.

His false assumption (Mary’s pregnancy) led to false interpretation (adultery) that led to false expectation (Mary can’t be trusted for marriage) that led his to a false application (private divorce).

4. Joseph had the spiritual maturity to make a decision compatible with the Directive Will of God.

But he went subjective in the flesh of worldly thinking and walking by sight (2 Cor.5:7).

The angel of The Lord was sent to clarify the Directive Will of God to Joseph because of his positive volition (Matt.1:20-23). God obligated Himself to positive volition (at home, in bed, and in deep sleep).

(1 Cor.10:13) “No temptation has overtaken **you** but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow **you** to be tempted beyond what **you** are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that **you** will be able to endure it.” (1 Cor.10:13) (God to positive volition)

5. Notice how Gabriel laid out categorically the Directive Will of God to Joseph in (Matt.1:20-23) for application.

(Matt.1:20) “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.”

(Matt.1:20) “For that which has been conceived in her is of Holy Spirit.”

(Matt.1:21) “She will bear a Son.”

(Matt.1:21) “You will call His name Jesus, for He will save His (not Mary nor Joseph) people from their sins.”

(Matt.1:22-23) First Footnote of response

(Matt.1:23-25) Second Footnote of response – Joseph went to Bible for the Scripture of Isa.7:14 and with confidence – **“JOSEPH DID AS THE ANGEL OF LORD COMMANDED.”**

(Jas.2:18)

“Someone may say, ‘You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without works and I will show you my faith by my works.’”