

## Wednesday Night Bible Study 14/03/2018

Personal reflection:

Imagine for a few moments that you were in Joseph's "Jesus' earthly father's" situation when Mary the virgin mother of Jesus, declared she was pregnant. Joseph was a man who wanted to do things in the right way and uphold the marriage laws of that culture and time. We will review that soon. Before we investigate the reading for tonight, have a think about what you would have done if the person you were engaged to was pregnant to someone else.

What are your options?

Is public stigma something that would shape your decision?

What is the price of your personal reputation?

How does personal integrity shape your decision?

Please read Deuteronomy 22:13-30 and survey an Ancient Israelite view of marriage and the Law.

Now read Matthew 1:18-19 and think about how Joseph acted after hearing the news of Mary's pregnancy.

There is a lot going on just in these couple of verses aren't there? If you were in Joseph's position after what we have discovered, how would you now respond?

The strength of what we believe can be measured by how much we are willing to give up, stand strong or even suffer for those beliefs. We can see that Joseph was a man with strong beliefs. He was prepared to do what right despite the pain he knew it would cause. Joseph also had another strong character trait, he not only tried to do what was right, he also tried to do it in the right way.

Now read verses 20-24

We can see that Joseph was a man of integrity, a descendant of King David, he would become Jesus' legal and earthy father and he was a person sensitive to God's guidance and willing to do God's will no matter what the consequence was. What comes to mind when we see Joseph's actions?

Here are four suggestions of lessons we can learn from Joseph's example. How about we reflect on these statements with each other and write down our discoveries.

