

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 16, 2023

THEME: "Joseph and Mary"

FAMILY WORSHIP

Sunday..... . Read Luke 2:40-45

"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover." I think this fact about Joseph and Mary is very telling! God chose a couple who put worship according to His commands as a high priority. They did not send their son to worship; they took him! Children whose parents emphasize corporate worship as a high priority is getting them off to a good start in life, and it was worship with a Biblical emphasis. That commitment gave Jesus the opportunity to become involved personally with other people as we see in His engaging with other believers! We see how Jesus became involved in Luke 2:46-47: *"And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."* Our Heavenly Father enjoys seeing families worship.

MOTHERHOOD

Monday Read Luke 1:28-33

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus." As a young woman, Mary was advised by an angel sent from God that she would have a baby boy. Her first reaction was one of confusion because she was still a virgin. Although engaged to Joseph, she would remain a virgin until married, in obedience to God's commands. This would be the fulfillment of God's prophetic truth in Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Either she did not know that Scripture or could not fathom the idea that she would be the one about whom God was speaking when He inspired Isaiah to write it. She would miraculously become the mother of Jesus, God the Son.

GOD'S OMNISCIENCE

Tuesday Read Romans 11:33-36

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" The knowledge of our God is infinite! We are told this in Psalm 139:1-2: *"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off."* Surely that truth should affect the thinking of every human being. Nothing can be hid from God. God knew what the reactions of Mary and Joseph would be to His plans to have His Son Jesus being in their home in His childhood and adolescent years. God sent angels to them to reassure them that they were His chosen vessels for such a responsibility of great magnitude. Being no respecter of persons, God also knows our thoughts! Because

the heart generates our thoughts, we should heed the admonition of Jesus in Matthew 5:8: *"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."*

CONSIDERATE

Wednesday Read Matthew 1:15-18

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily." Upon hearing of his fiancée's pregnancy, Joseph decided to keep things as quiet as possible. Joseph did feel compelled to break off the relationship. Joseph was very sensitive about Mary's reputation and kept things quiet. Realizing Joseph's confusion, God intervened and gave him the assurance that things were fine, that the baby in Mary's womb was a result of Divine intervention. God assured Joseph that things were actually very special in that his fiancée was the one of which the prophet long ago spoke when he said that a virgin would bring forth the one who would be the Messiah! We read of that in Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

OBEDIENCE

Thursday Read Matthew 1:19-24

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife." Praise God for His Divine intervention when one of His people is about to make a life-changing mistake. Now that God has completed the writing of His Holy Word, He no longer needs to send angels to deliver His message. We have His truth and instruction in the Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit according to the teaching of Jesus in John 16:13: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* Joseph obeyed the message delivered from God and married Mary. Jesus had a home on earth! It is always best to obey God's orders.

GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

Friday Read Matthew 1:22-26

"All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." The gospel writer made reference to the Old Testament prophecy mentioning that a virgin would have a baby. Truly our God is an all-knowing God. He has foretold of events centuries before they happen. He did so in great detail about the first coming of Jesus to earth. He has also foretold of the events surrounding the second appearance of His Son. It should catch the attention of everyone that God has given the signs of His appearing. They are current news in our day.

HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

Saturday Read Isaiah 55:8-9

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." The prophet points out the limitations of human knowledge compared to God's knowledge. Without the light that God has provided in His Scriptures, humans would be in total darkness. That is what Jesus pointed out in

Matthew 15:14: *"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."* When He spoke of blindness, He was speaking of people being blind to God's truth. That blindness led to such conclusions as the theory of evolution on the origin of things. People are very fortunate who follow the instruction of Psalm 119:133: "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." Knowing God's truth is infallible; without God's truth opens the door to living in ignorance!