

How could it be this baby in my arms sleeping now, so peacefully

The Son of God, the angel said,

How could it be?

Lord I know He's not my own, not of my flesh, not of my bone Still Father let this baby be the son of my love.

by Michael Card

Father, show me where I fit into this plan of yours.

How can a man be father to the Son of God?

Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter;

How can I raise a king, How can I raise a king?

### Joseph's Song

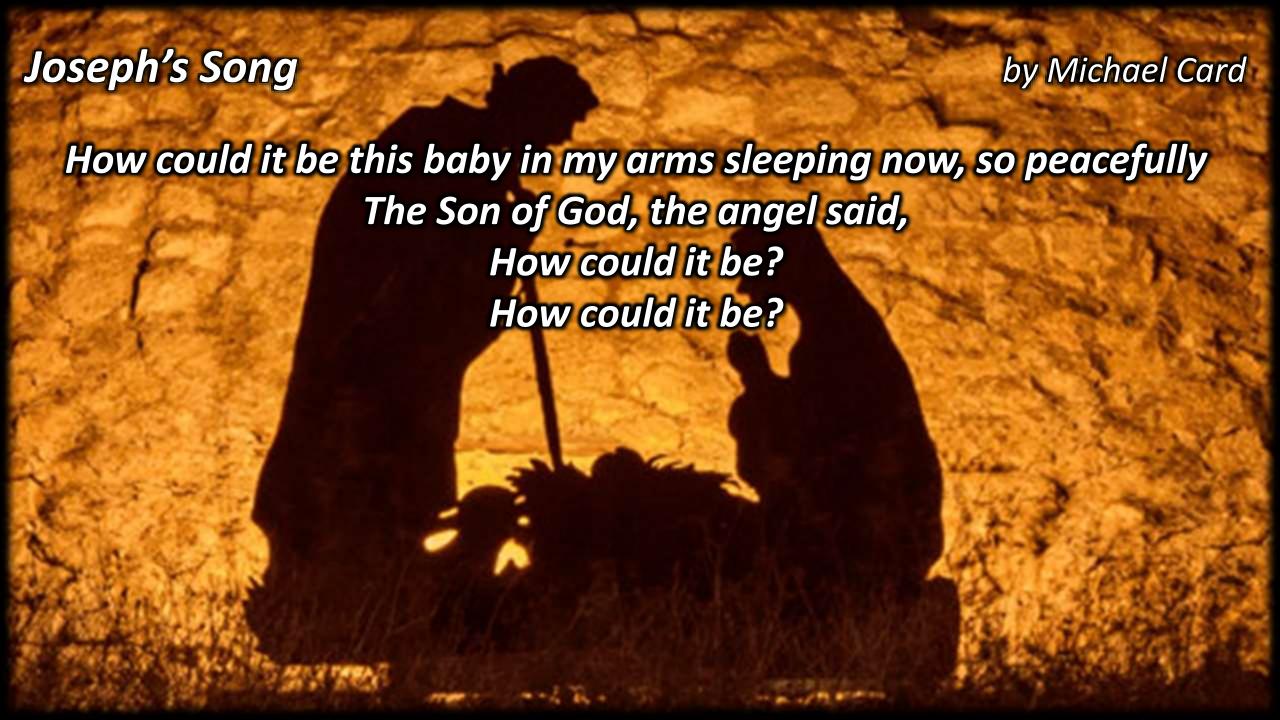
He looks so small, His face and hands so fair,
And when He cries the sun just seems to disappear.
But when He laughs it shines again...
How could it be?

Father, show me where I fit into this plan of yours.

How can a man be father to the Son of God?

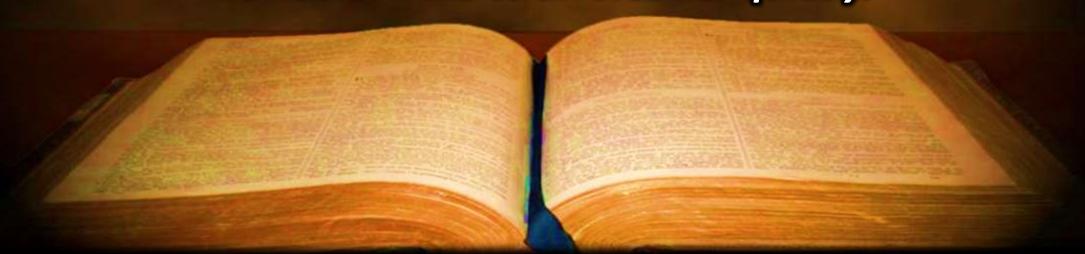
Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter;

How can I raise a king, How can I raise a king?



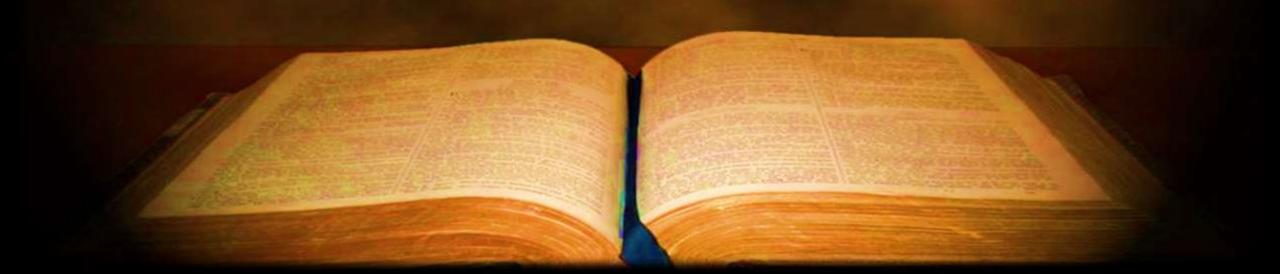
#### Matthew 1:18-25

"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:
His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,
but before they came together,
she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law,
and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace,
he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



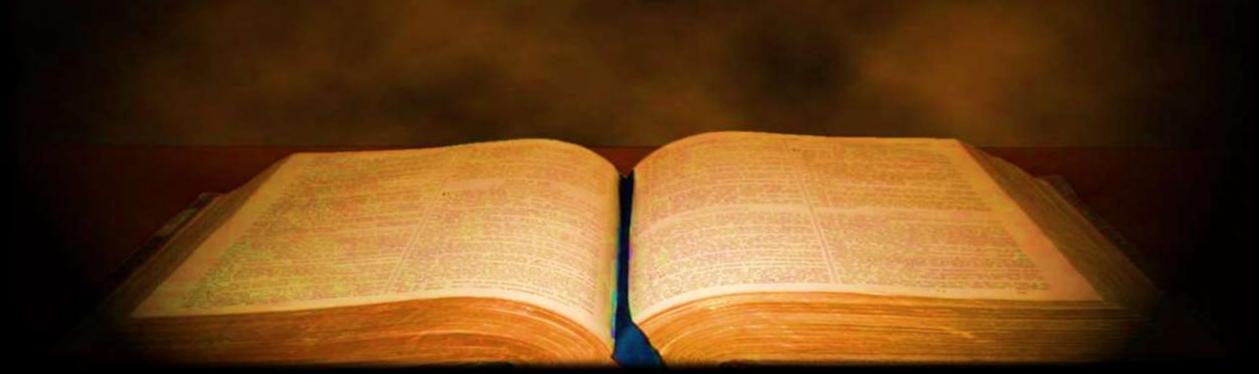
#### Matthew 1:18-25

"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

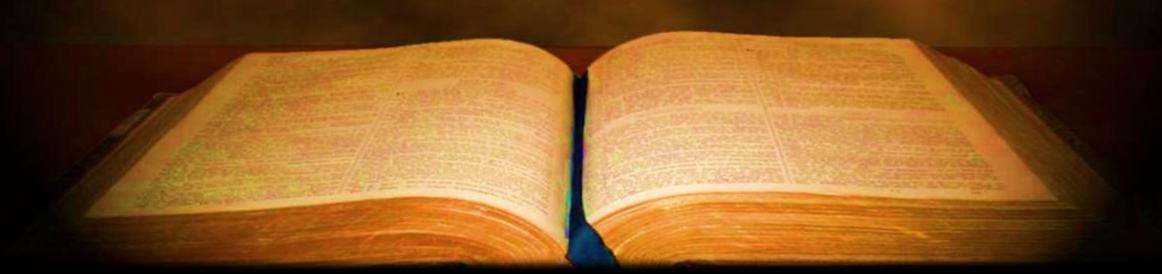


"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').



"When Joseph woke up,
he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took Mary home as his wife.
But he did not consummate their marriage
until she gave birth to a son.
And [Joseph] gave him the name Jesus."



THE Gospel

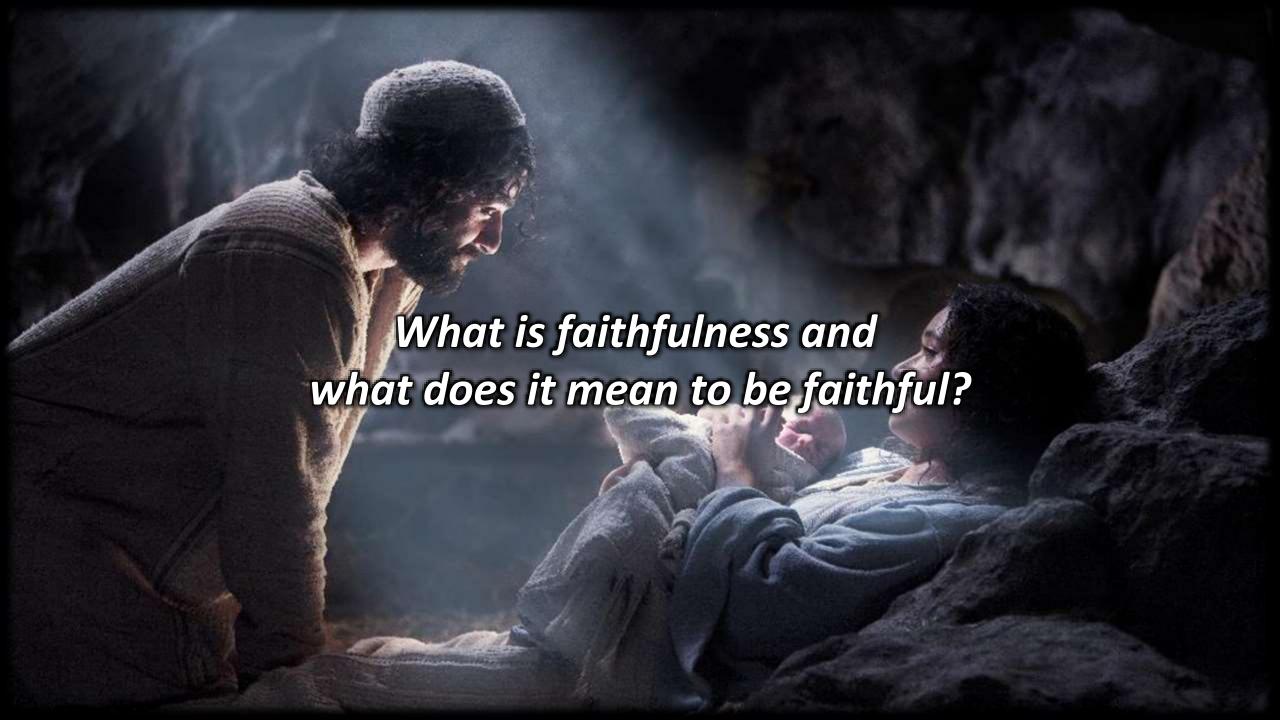
ACCORDING TO Christmas

### Series – "The Gospel According to Christmas"

- 01 Dec. "Have a Mary Christmas"
- 08 Dec. "Living in the Light"
- 15 Dec. "Faithfully Yours"
- 22 Dec. "Small Wonder"







- Choice.
- Relationship.
- · Risk.

Sacrifice.

# FAITHFULNESS

Choice – making decisions based on truth.

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- Choice making decisions based on truth.
- Relationship understanding how choices impact people.

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# HAITHFULNESS

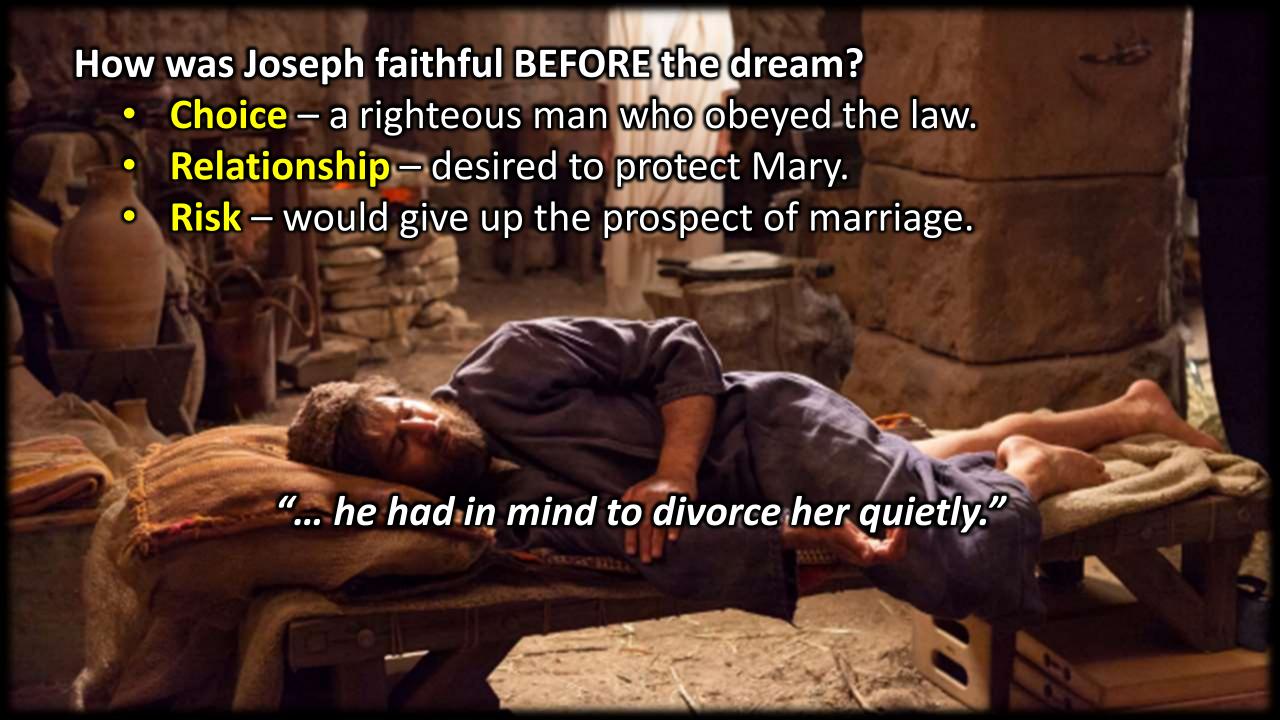
- Choice making decisions based on truth.
- Relationship understanding how choices impact people.
- Risk assessing the cost of change.
  - Sacrifice valuing obedience over the risks.

## HAITHFULNESS











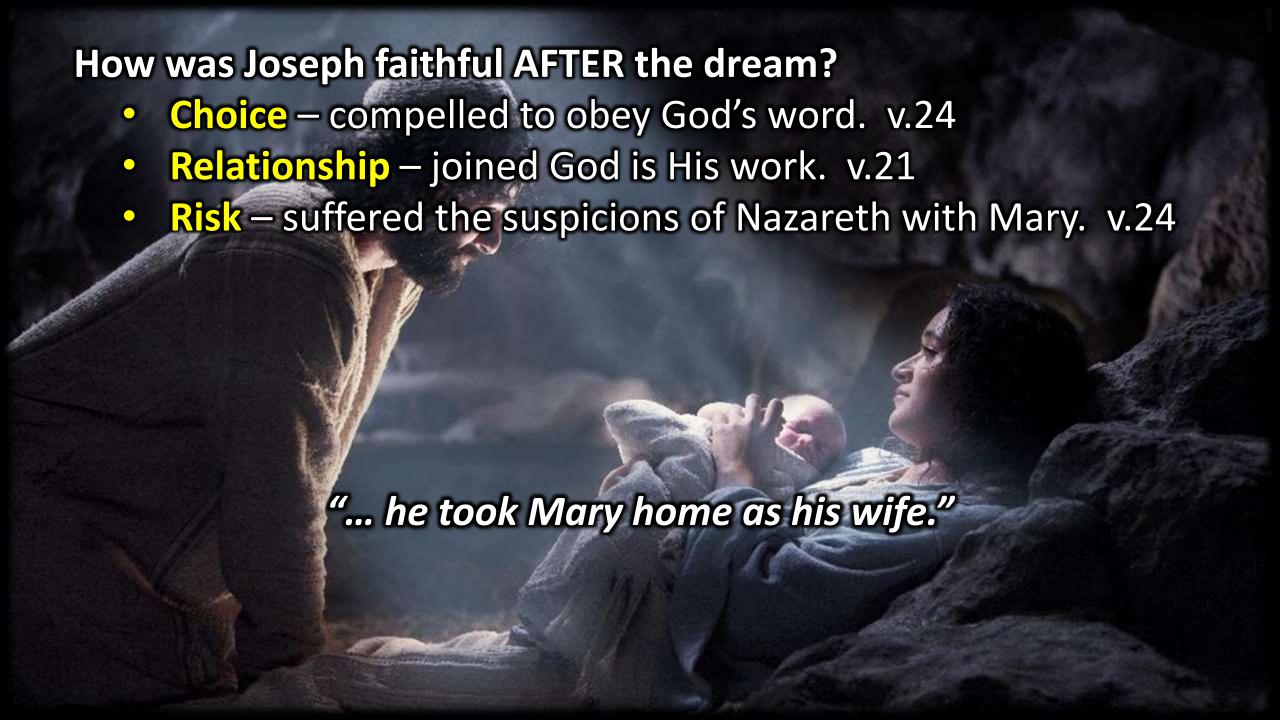






• Relationship – joined God in His work. v.21

"... you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

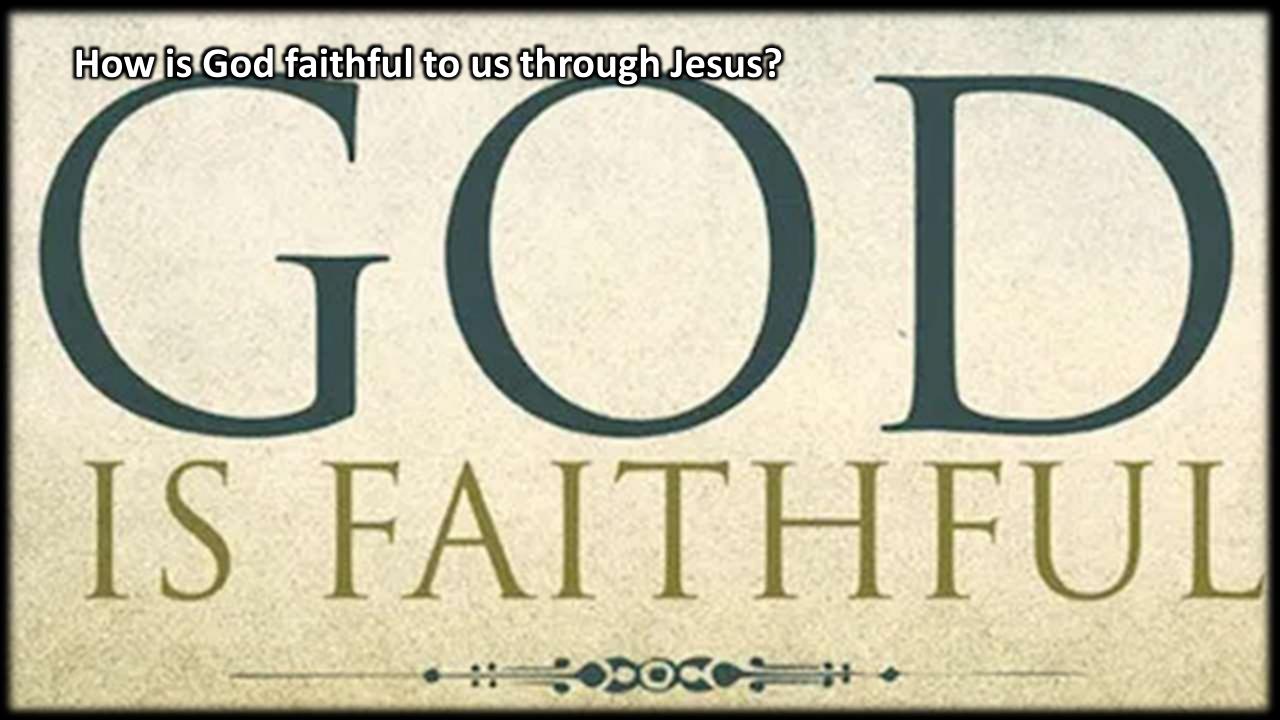


### How was Joseph faithful AFTER the dream?

- Choice compelled to obey God's word. v.24
- Relationship joined God is His work. v.21
- Risk suffered the suspicions of Nazareth with Mary. v.24
- Sacrifice abstained from sex until Jesus was born. v.25

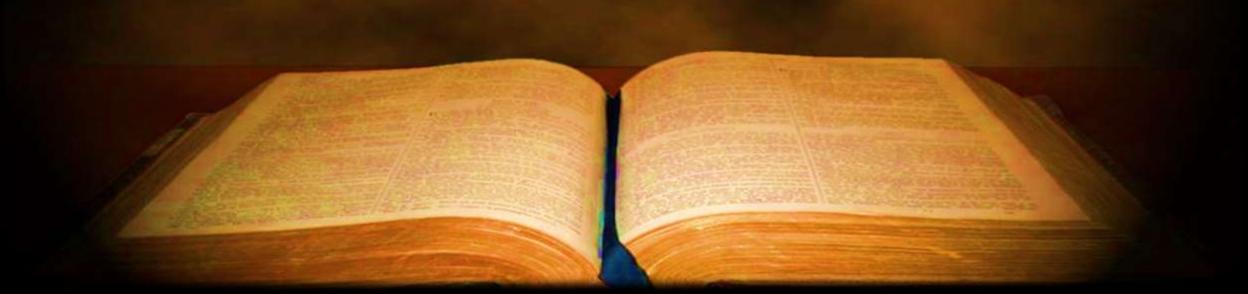
"But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son.

And [Joseph] gave him the name Jesus."



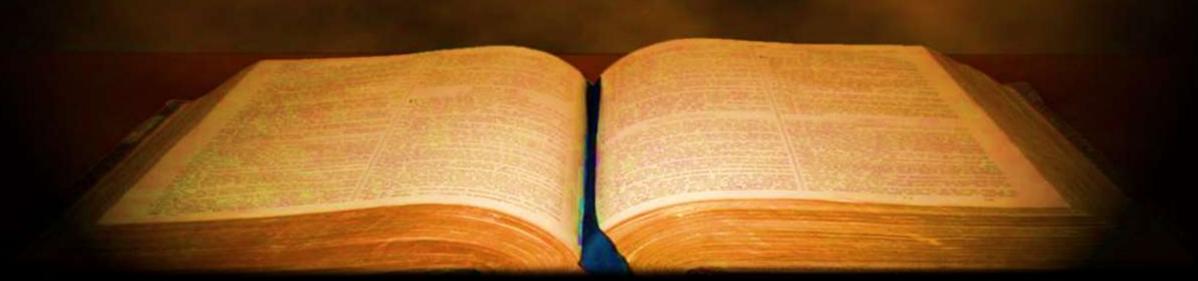
#### Philippians 2:5-8

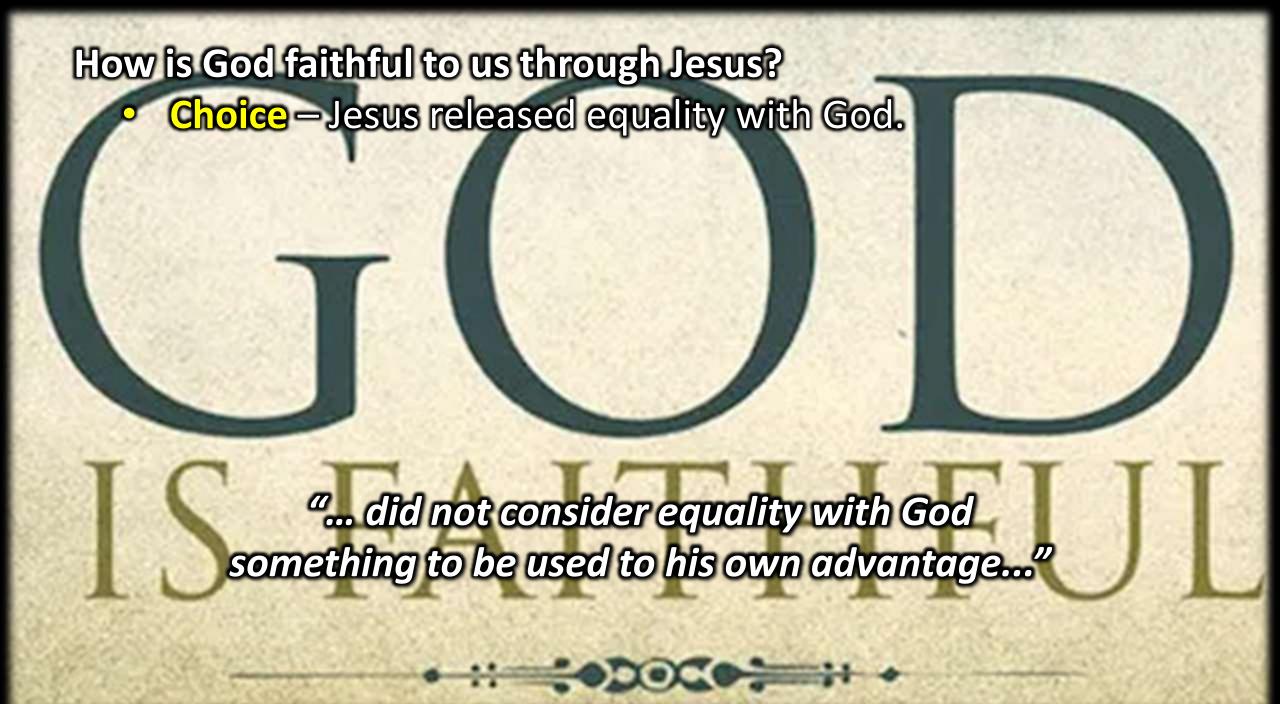
"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

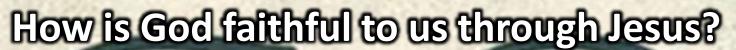


#### Philippians 2:5-8

"rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death –
even death on a cross!"







- Choice Jesus released equality with God.
- Partnership Jesus became a man.

"... being made in human likeness... being found in appearance as a man..."

### How is God faithful to us through Jesus?

- Choice Jesus released equality with God.
- Partnership Jesus became a man.
- Risk Jesus set aside his rights;
   made Himself nothing, a servant.

"... he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant..."

### How is God faithful to us through Jesus?

- Choice Jesus released equality with God.
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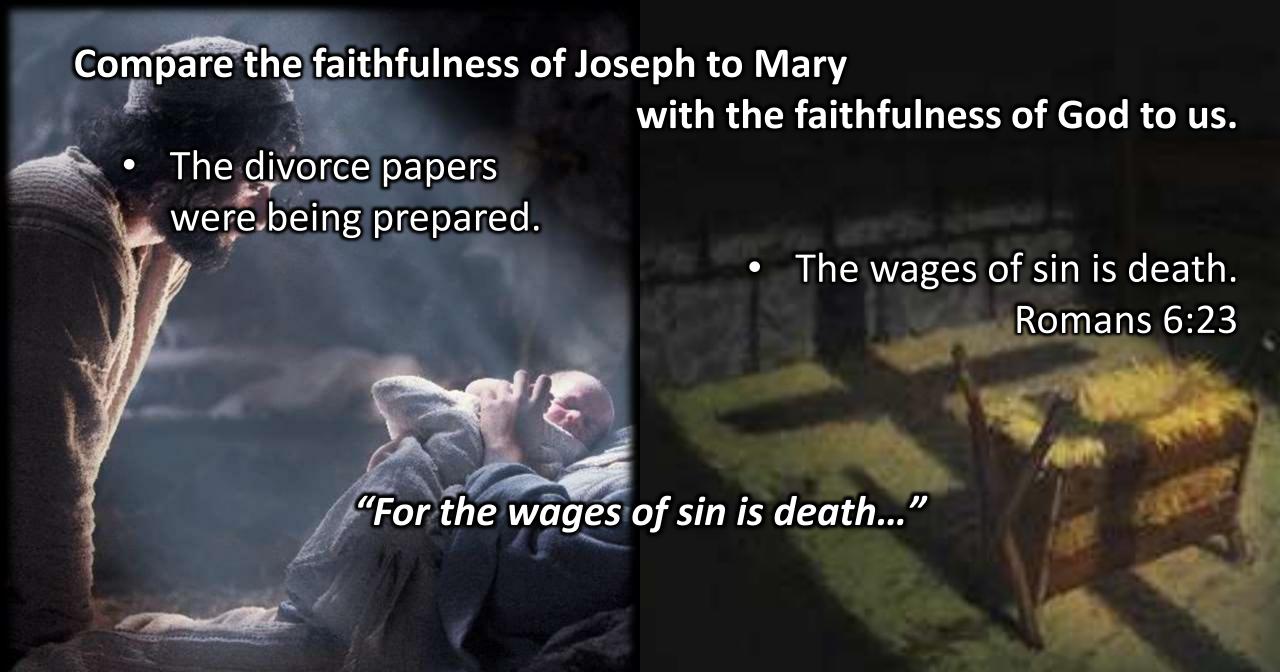


 Joseph was offended and had the right to divorce Mary.

> God's holiness was violated and we deserved punishment.
>  Isaiah 53:6

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;..."







- God's grace and truth through Joseph changed everything.
  - God's grace and truth through Jesus transforms/redeems us.
     John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,... full of grace and truth."



 Joseph loved Mary in spite of the accusation.

Jesus' grace goes beyond our guilt.
Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Joseph loved Mary in spite of the accusation.

Jesus' grace goes beyond our guilt.
Romans 5:20

"But where sin increased, grace increased all the more..."



Joseph sacrificed reputation in order to have Mary.

• Jesus gave up equality with God to draw near to us. Philippians 2:6

"[Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage..."



 Joseph gave up his life for Mary's good.

> Jesus laid down His life for our good.
>  1 Timothy 2:5-6

"... Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."



- Joseph gave Mary his righteousness through marriage.
  - Jesus covers us with His righteousness and calls us His bride.
     2 Corinthians 5:21

"God made [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."



 Joseph's sacrifice gave Jesus sonship.

> Jesus' sacrifice makes us God's children. John 1:12

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, [God] gave the right to become children of God."

 Joseph's sacrifice gave Jesus sonship.

• Jesus' sacrifice makes us God's children. Galatians 4:4-5

"God sent his Son, born of a woman,...
that we might receive adoption to sonship."

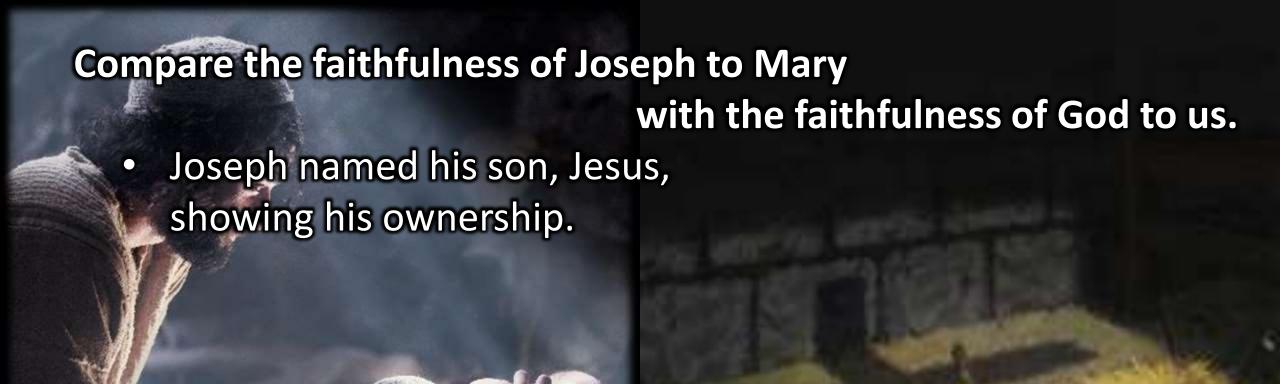
 Joseph married Mary thinking only of her purity.

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy... and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

 Joseph married Mary thinking only of her purity.

> Jesus calls us His bride / presents us spotless. Ephesians 5:25-32

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy... and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."



"... you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow."

 Joseph named his son, Jesus, showing his ownership.

> Jesus has changed our name, to prove His ownership of us.
>  Isaiah 62:2

"... you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow."

# IS FAITHFUL

BE FAITHFUL

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Application – how can we express faithfulness to Jesus?

Choice – a commitment to belong to Him. Romans 10:9

# IS FAITHFUL

"If you declare with your mouth, Tesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

- Choice a commitment to belong to Him. Romans 10:9
- Relationship loving God and being loved by Him.
   1 John 4:10

# IS FAITHFUL

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

# BE FAITHFUL

- Choice—a commitment to belong to Him. Romans 10:9
- Relationship loving God and being loved by Him.

1 John 4:10

• Risk – letting go of my control over my life.

1 Peter 3:15

# IS FAITHFUL

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord."

# BE FAITHFUL

- Choice—a commitment to belong to Him. Romans 10:9
- Relationship loving God and being loved by Him.

1 John 4:10

- Risk letting go of my control over my life. 1 Peter 3:15
- Sacrifice embracing all that God has for me,
   regardless of the cost.
   Philippians 3:7

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ."

# BE FAITHFUL



