



THE  
WITNESS  
OF A  
GODLY  
HUSBAND

MT 1:18-25

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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- “I’m sorry. I thought you said, ‘Smother.’”



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- “How many want to mother your husbands?”
- “I’m sorry. I thought you said, ‘Smother.’”
- Without any doubt, we husbands aren’t always the men of our wives’ dreams.



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  - “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Eph 5:25, ESV).



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  - “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Eph 5:25, ESV).
  - “Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel” (1 Pt 3:7, ESV).





THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**JOSEPH HERE  
PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE  
OF WHAT HUSBANDS  
SHOULD BE.**



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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  - Since the 5<sup>th</sup> century, there has been a belief that Joseph was an older man, widowed, & have children from his previous marriage.
  - This material comes from a heretical document & is used to explain how Jesus could have brothers and sisters while Mary was a perpetual virgin.



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- The truth is that Joseph leaves us “A Witness of a Godly Husband.”

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- We want to see biblical truth & not get bogged down in various theories.
- The truth is that Joseph leaves us “A Witness of a Godly Husband.”
- “A Godly Husband” is:
  - A LAWFUL HUSBAND.
  - A LOVING HUSBAND.
  - A LISTENING HUSBAND.
  - A LIMITED HUSBAND.



A close-up profile of a Black man with short, dark hair, smiling broadly and looking down and to the right. He is wearing a dark blue or grey collared shirt. The background is plain white.

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

vv 18-19.

**A LAWFUL HUSBAND**

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph was a lawful man.





# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph was a lawful man.
- “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly” (vv 18-19, ESV).



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      - Parents arranged betrothals.
      - Betrothed couples didn't spend much time together.



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    - If Joseph didn't know Mary well, how likely is he to believe her?



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  - “We were not born of sexual immorality” (Jn 8:41, ESV). Some believe the Jews were making a veiled insult toward Jesus.
  - Many Jewish texts have ascribed Jesus’ conception to immorality.



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    - “The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Mt 13:43, ESV).



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# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph is also A **LAWFUL HUSBAND** in doing what the angel instructs.





THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**ARE WE LAWFUL  
HUSBANDS?**

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Do we lead our families in doing the right thing?
  - “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Josh 24:15, ESV).
  - Do we seek to love our wives the way Jesus loves the church?







THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**ARE WE LAWFUL MEN?**

A close-up profile of a Black man with short, dark hair, smiling broadly and looking down and to the right. He is wearing a dark blue or grey collared shirt. The background is plain white.

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

v 19.

**A LOVING MAN**

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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- Joseph was a loving husband.
- “Her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly” (v 19, ESV).

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# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph is caught between a rock & a hard place.
  - Being a just man, he needs to preserve his reputation.
  - But, he loves Mary, so he decides to divorce her quietly.



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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  - Mary would never have found another husband. If her parents died, she would have no means of support.
  - She would have been subjected to the death penalty.
    - Granted, it wasn't used in this time period.
    - But, could you imagine what people would have said?

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  - “Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them” (Col 3:19, ESV).





THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**ARE WE LOVING OUR  
WIVES?**



THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

vv 20-24

**A LISTENING HUSBAND**

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph listens to the law of God.



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- “But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife” (vv 20-24, ESV).





THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE  
SEEN THE LOOK ON  
JOSEPH'S FACE!**



## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

But, the reaction of his heart is even more amazing!

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  - He gave up the right to father his firstborn.

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- The firstborn was a sign of vitality & strength.





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  - The fact that he goes through with the marriage is a sign that he has been immoral.
  - He gave up the right to father his firstborn.
  - He went against societal custom by marrying a woman with child.
  - By delaying the consummation of the marriage, Joseph could not produce evidence of Mary's virginity (Dt 22:15).



THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**THINK ABOUT ALL THIS!**



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

Joseph gives up his will & desires  
for the will of God!

**THINK ABOUT ALL THIS!**



THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**HOW WILLING ARE WE  
TO OBEY GOD  
*REGARDLESS* OF OUR  
DESIRES?**

## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams” (1 Sm 15:23, ESV).



## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams” (1 Sm 15:23, ESV).
- “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Mt 7:21, ESV).





THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**“THE FIRST DUTY OF  
EVERY SOUL IS TO FIND  
NOT ITS FREEDOM BUT  
ITS MASTER.”**



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

Have you found the Master of your soul?

**“THE FIRST DUTY OF EVERY SOUL IS TO FIND NOT ITS FREEDOM BUT ITS MASTER.”**





THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

v 25

**A LIMITED HUSBAND**

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph limited himself sexually.





## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Joseph limited himself sexually.
- He “knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus” (v 25, ESV).



## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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    - The literal Gr is “and was knowing her not.”
    - It draws attention to the span between the wedding & the birth of Jesus during which Joseph did not have sexual intercourse with Mary.







THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**WHY DID JOSEPH NOT  
HAVE MARITAL  
RELATIONS WITH MARY  
UNTIL AFTER JESUS  
WAS BORN?**

# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Not because there is something inappropriate about sex in marriage.



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Not because there is something inappropriate about sex in marriage.
  - “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love” (Prov 5:18-19, ESV).





## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

- Not because there is something inappropriate about sex in marriage.
  - Prov 5:18-19.
  - “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another” (1 Cor 7:3-5, ESV).



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- Not because there is something inappropriate about sex in marriage.
- Therefore, it must be to demonstrate beyond all doubt that Jesus was not conceived from him.
- Interestingly, Jewish teachers taught that males had no self-control & should thus marry very early.
- Joseph stands as a model of self-control.



THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

**WHAT SHOULD WE  
LEARN FROM JOSEPH'S  
SELF-CONTROL?**



# THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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      - To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single” (1 Cor 7:8, ESV).





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  - Scripture presents a totally different view of sex.
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    - But, we are more than sexual creatures.
      - “Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (1 Cor 7:5, ESV).



## THE WITNESS OF A GODLY HUSBAND

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- Men dare not treat their wives as only sexual objects.
  - I'm afraid that some Christian men view their wives that way. The reasoning: "Sex belongs in marriage, we are bombarded with sexual temptation; therefore, my wife needs to give herself to me whenever I want her to."



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  - I'm afraid that some Christian men view their wives that way.
  - However, Joseph does not have sex with Mary for a while.
  - What if something were to happen to our wives & we could not have marital relations with them?

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