

THE MAN GOD CHOSE TO RAISE HIS SON

I. A MAN WHO WOULD BE A “PARENT” TO A CHILD NOT HIS OWN.

A. **Matthew 1:20**

Joseph was not merely the husband of the mother of Jesus, and thus only incidentally connected to the Son of God. Rather, he was directly instructed by the Lord’s angel to proceed in marriage to Mary, and thus implicitly expected to raise the Boy Jesus.

B. **Luke 2:27, 41; 3:23**

Although he was only “supposed” to be Jesus’ father, he was, correctly, identified as one of His “parents” more than once in Scripture, insomuch as he was responsible for raising the Child.

C. **Deuteronomy 25:5-10; James 1:27; 1st Corinthians 7:39; Matthew 19:9**

There are multiple situations, acknowledged by God, in which a man might raise another’s child. Under the Law of Moses, a man was obligated to marry his late brother’s widow if she was childless in order to bring forth children in the name of the deceased. To the present, genuine religion involves providing for orphans. Widows may remarry, which might involve a new husband raising another man’s kids. A mother may have cause to divorce her husband, if he was guilty of fornication, and marry another man who would be involved in raising her children.

II. A WORKING MAN WHO WOULD TEACH THE BOY A TRADE.

A. **Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3**

In two narratives of a single event, Jesus was regarded by His neighbors in Nazareth as “*the carpenter’s son*” and “*the carpenter*”, meaning Joseph was a carpenter who, evidently, taught Jesus the same skills.

B. **2nd Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 16:26**

Work is a prerequisite to eating. A man should not only work, but also teach the children under his guidance to do the same.

C. 1st Timothy 5:8

The man who won't provide for his household has denied the faith.

III. A RELIGIOUS MAN WHO WOULD WORSHIP REGULARLY WITH HIS FAMILY.

A. Luke 2:21-24, 39-41

That Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day as the Law required, that Mary was purified following childbirth as the Law required, that Jesus was presented in the temple and sacrifices offered as the Law required, that *“they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord”*, that *“the Child grew and became strong in spirit”*, and that they made an annual pilgrimage for Passover as the law required demonstrates that Jesus was raised by godly parents who took religion seriously.

B. Joshua 24:15; Genesis 18:19

To raise His own Son, God chose a man like Joshua – who made the decision for his household to serve Jehovah no matter what others did, a man like Abraham – whom God trusted to command his household to keep God's way.

C. Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Ephesians 6:4

God always has and always will require fathers to keep their children aware of God's word.

D. Hebrews 10:25

Worshipping God regularly is as necessary now as it was then.

IV. “A JUST MAN” WHO UNDERSTOOD MERCY

A. Matthew 1:18-19

Prior to angelic intervention Joseph did not know how his betrothed wife had become pregnant since they had not yet consummated the marriage sexually.

Accordingly, he intended to divorce her, but knew that mercy was the better part of justice.

B. Deuteronomy 22:13-15, 20-21, 23-27; 24:1

Under Moses' Law, Joseph would have been well within his rights to divorce her, and possibly have her executed, but he chose kindness.

C. John 7:24

Righteous judgment is not based on appearance, so it was wise of Joseph to refrain from the harshest possible sentence.

D. Luke 6:36; Romans 12:17-19

God calls on His people to be merciful as He is merciful. Vengeance does not belong to man.

E. 1st Corinthians 13:4-6

Joseph manifested the qualities of real love in that he was longsuffering, unprovoked, and would not seek his own.

F. 1st Peter 3:7

A godly man is understanding toward his wife, and a solid marriage leads to happier children.

V. AN IMPERFECT MAN WHO WOULD OVERLOOK THE BOY AT LEAST ONCE.

A. Luke 2:42-45

Joseph and Mary unintentionally left Jesus in Jerusalem on their return to Nazareth when he was twelve. Even the best parents can be forgetful.

B. 1st Corinthians 1:14-16

The apostle Paul admitted to not remembering all the people he had baptized in Corinth. Memory lapses are not sinful, even if they occasionally hurt some feelings.

VI. A MAN OF LIMITED MEANS.

A. Luke 2:22-24; Leviticus 12:1-8

The choice of two turtledoves or two pigeons in lieu of a lamb to sacrifice for Mary's purification following childbirth means they could not bring a lamb. Most likely, they couldn't afford it. Joseph and Mary were not well off.

B. 2nd Corinthians 8:9

Jesus is known to have been poor. It was a status he retained from infancy until His death. Clearly, financial stability was not a major concern when Jehovah entrusted the guardianship of His Son to Joseph. Those who wait to achieve economic goals before raising kids will usually wait too long.