

Joseph, The Unsung Hero

By Greg Laurie (<https://www.harvest.org/devotions-and-blogs/daily-devotions/2016-12-02>)

Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.—Matthew 1:19

Joseph is the unsung hero of the Christmas story. For the most part, there are no Christmas songs about Joseph. Yet he really is a hero. The Bible tells us that Joseph was a "good man" (Matthew 1:19). Deeply in love with Mary, he was no doubt jolted by the news that she was pregnant.

Joseph and Mary were engaged, which, in their culture, was like being married. Once a couple entered into this engagement, or espousal, period, it was like being married, although they lived in separate houses. It was during this time that Mary became pregnant.

Yet Joseph loved Mary, and the Bible tells us that he "did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly" (Matthew 1:19). In other words, Joseph was thinking, *I'm going to say that I can't marry her now, but I'm certainly not going to publicly shame Mary, either.*

While he was pondering this, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (verses 20–21).

That was all Joseph needed to hear. He could have walked away, even after he knew the truth. But he stood by Mary. And just as surely as God chose Mary to be the mother of the Messiah, he chose Joseph to be a father figure on earth for Jesus.

When God uses a person, there is a sacrifice to make. It won't be an easy path, but it will be a fruitful one—and you will look back later in life and be glad that you took it.

News and Notes

Shower of Love- We would like the congregation to shower the Manweiler family with love by giving gifts of diapers and wipes (you can never have too many), meal (new parents are often tired) and money (for those extra baby needs). Please have all gifts to Nancy or Shannon by Dec 18.

Service of Memory- Again this year Dugan-Kramer funeral chapel will be holding a Service of Memory on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 2PM at Dugan-Kramer Funeral Chapel in Scottsbluff. More information is on the bulletin board.

Spiritual Giftedness Seminar- December 9-11 Doug Hamilton will be here to bring us a series of lessons on Spiritual Giftedness. Come discover your Spiritual Gifts and be empowered in effective ministry, both personally and congregationally.

Soup Kitchen- Our next soup kitchen will be this Tuesday, December 20 at 5pm. We will be serving a ham dinner. Volunteers are needed to make food, serve, and clean up. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

Birthdays

Shayla Goracke	12/15	Sharon Griffitts	12/17
Amy Reinbold	12/21	Ruger Sanderson	12/21

If you birthday has been inadvertently left off this list please let Shannon know.

Those Serving

12/4/2016	Announcements:	Shane
Opening Prayer	Jeremy	Table: West Nate
Song Leader	Chris	Center James
Scripture Reader	Pablo	East Gary
Closing Prayer	Jay	Preacher: Tom
Devotion:	Chris	Song Leader: Shane

12/11/2016	Announcements:	Chris
Opening Prayer	Gary	Table: West James
Song Leader	Shane	Center Gary
Scripture Reader	Tim	East Shane
Closing Prayer	Nate	Preacher:
Devotion:	Prayer	Song Leader: Chris
December:	Lord's Supper:	Sharon Sidewalks: Chris