

Title: Joe The Chippy – Matthew 1 18-25

Read:

¹⁸⁻¹⁹The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. ²⁰⁻²³While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic sermon to full term: Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us"). ²⁴⁻²⁵Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

Think:

OK so imagine you have a big brother who is a carpenter. He has been working on a building site for a couple of years and learning his trade. Recently, your brother Joe got engaged to Mary who is the girl of his dreams. Then one day he comes home to you and says. "Hey, don't tell Mum and Dad but Mary is pregnant and we haven't had sex, but it's Ok because I had a dream, in which God told me that this all happened miraculously, and that Mary is going to have his son, who we should call Jesus." What would you say to your brother? "You're a nutter, she's been sleeping around, dreams from God, have you lost the plot?" I am sure that Joseph would have heard so many people tell him the same thing. Don't forget, this is before Jesus performed any miracles, came out with any wise words, before anyone else knew He is the Son of God. Joseph is the unsung hero in the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Joseph had the faith to believe Mary, to believe God and to believe his dreams. Joseph didn't blame it on eating too much cheese. He didn't say, oh, that's just my imagination. No, Joseph heard God and was willing to put up with all the ridicule around the village, to do what he knew God wanted him to do. If we want to be superheroes then when we hear God, we need to have the faith that Joe the chippy had and just do it.

Pray:

Lord the very next time you prompt me to do something, please give me that extra nudge to step out and have the faith that Joseph had. Amen.

Action:

No immediate action for you to take today, only the commitment that next time you hear God you will act on it. Will you? Bye for now.