

**“WWJD – What Would Joseph Do?”**  
**12/10/06 \* Matt. 1:18-25, 2:13-15, 19-23**

*I. Joseph’s role in the Christmas story*

*A. How does Joseph compare to Mary in our typical Christmas remembrances?*

**Gets “little respect”. Stands in the backdrop of the Nativity scene. Few if any songs written about him. The strong, silent male.**

*B. Joseph symbolizes American men in what way?*

**60% of American churchgoers are women (13 million more women than men each Sunday).**

*C. Why might this be so?*

**David Murrow in his book “Why Men Hate Going To Church” offers several ideas: Look at the décor of most churches – hardly “alpha male”. Listen to the music – too “Barry Manilow”. Look at the way Jesus is depicted, not rugged but “nice”.**

*II. What was Joseph probably feeling in light of Mary’s pregnancy?*

**Tremendous anger and disgrace. To be in love with a woman and she ends up pregnant, and you know this is not your child would stir up the most violent of feelings.**

**Three Lessons Joseph Teaches About Godly Masculinity**

**Lesson 1 – A godly man is a master of his emotions and passions.**

*A. Is passion and emotion a part of masculinity?*

**Absolutely. The lava flow of testosterone surges through us. But this is something God put in us. It is not bad.**

In his book “Wild At Heart”, John Eldredge says every man is wired by God to look for three things:

1. a **work** to do.
2. a **battle** to fight.
3. a **beauty** to rescue.

*B. It’s not that this passion is bad and must be removed. The truth is that this passion is good and must be channeled and harnessed.*

*C. The same emotion and passion that causes men to commit 80% of violent crimes, also causes men to do what else? **To invent, discover, develop, create, explore, conquer – to exhibit courage and attempt great things.***

*D. So how does a man channel all this energy and passion? **He must run his emotions and passions through God. Joseph thought out before he acted out. He laid out all the options, and because he had a relationship with God (he was a ‘righteous man’), he chose the honorable path by divorcing her quietly.***

*E. How am I doing in this area?*

**Totally out of control – 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 – Totally in control**

**Lesson 2 – A godly man is a master of his sexuality.**

*A. What did Joseph and Mary not do until Jesus’ birth? **They “had no union”, meaning they did not consummate their love for each other sexually.***

*B. Why did they do this? Is it because sex is bad?*

**Sex is a good and God-given part of our humanity. However there are instances in Scripture when God draws near to us and asks us to focus completely on him, which includes sexual abstinence (see Exodus 19 and 1 Cor.7:5)**

C. *What does Joseph have to teach us about sexual self-discipline?*

1. *Sexual self-control is **possible**.*

**Don't listen to our sexually-saturated culture which says it isn't possible. Joseph shows us that it is.**

2. *Set up practical **boundaries** around yourself.*

**Mary went to her kinswoman Elizabeth's home for 3 months meaning she had Joseph weren't together to even be tempted. We need to know when and where we are weak and vulnerable, then take steps to stay away from such times and place.**

**Lesson 3 – A godly man is a master of his home.**

A. *When God wanted his son kept safe, whom did God speak to? **Joseph.***

B. *Why? **Because in God's eyes, he was responsible for the physical and spiritual well-being of his family.***

C. *What are the "little kingdoms" God gives us to rule over?*

**A man must rule over the little kingdom of his soul – guarding what comes in and out of him. He also rules the kingdom of his society, of the people in the orbit around his life. He is to influence that society for good. The most important little kingdom that a man rules over is that of his marriage and family.**

D. *What are different we may rule over our kingdoms?*

**Some with an iron fist. Men who use their bigger muscles and deeper voices to enforce their will in the home, those who "pull rank", will answer to God for their abuse. Some with passivity. They leave it to their wives to be the chief disciplinarian, to lead the family in devotions. They assume that because they bring home a paycheck that gives them the right to sit back on the couch and do nothing. They too will answer to God.**

**Joseph's example is the way of a godly male. To accept the responsibility for the well-being of our family.**

**Something God is speaking to my heart this morning:**