

Was Joseph the Father of Jesus?

Luke 2:41-52

“And Joseph and His mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of Him” (*Luke 2:33*). Notice that Luke does not say, “His father and His mother.” Joseph was not the Lord’s biological father. The Lord Jesus was the Son of Man, fully identifying with the human race, but He was not the son of a man. No man was involved in His supernatural conception.



Now consider Luke 2:48 where Mary says, “Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.” Mary calls Joseph the father of Jesus. Was Mary mistaken? If anyone knew about the Virgin Birth and supernatural conception, Mary certainly did.

Was Joseph the father of Jesus or not? Keep in mind what a father is meant to be. Many fathers today are missing in action. Sadly, too many children are born out of wedlock and raised without the presence of a father. Others have deadbeat dads who refuse to play a responsible role in their upbringing. This was never God’s intent. The breakdown of the family has been a curse on our society in so many ways.

Back to our question: What is a father supposed to be? Here are three simple words which sum up the paternal responsibilities: The father is to **provide** (*1 Tim. 5:8*), the father is to **protect** (*Prov. 14:26*), and the father is to **teach** (*Eph. 6:4*). Joseph **provided** for his family by working diligently as a carpenter (*Matt. 13:35*), **protected** his family from harm (*Matt. 2:13-14*) and **taught** his family (two of his sons, James and Jude, authored books of the Bible). Joseph, our Lord’s foster father, faithfully fulfilled the role of a father, even though he had nothing to do with our Lord’s conception.

“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost”
(*Matt. 1:20*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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