

# Joseph's Thoughtful Deliberation

*Matthew 1:17-25*



“When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (*Matt. 1:18*). Put yourself in Joseph’s shoes (sandals). Prior to the consummation of their marriage, Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant. Joseph knew that the Child was not his. There seemed to be only one conclusion that he could come to. Mary had been unfaithful. She must have been with some other man. Joseph was troubled greatly. It did not make sense. The Mary he thought he knew would not have done this. What should he do?

As he considered his options, he did not wish to make a public spectacle of Mary. To deal with the matter in private seemed best. “He thought on these things” (*Matt. 1:20*). Joseph did not act in haste, nor in anger. He deliberated. He waited on the Lord. “Lord, what should I do? I love Mary; I can’t believe this has happened. I don’t understand it. I’m deeply hurt. Lord, show me what to do.” God quickly answered and supplied the vital information that Joseph lacked (*Matt. 1:20-21*).

May we avoid rash actions and not jump to conclusions before learning all the facts. We need to wait on the Lord and carefully evaluate the situation in light of what we know to be true. The person who manifests the love of Christ does not hastily prejudge a case, but “believes all things” (*1 Cor. 13:7*), that is, he tries to put the best possible construction on actions and events. May we believe that a person is innocent until the facts prove otherwise. It is important to accept what a person says in his own defense unless there is solid evidence to the contrary. “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage...wait, I say, on the LORD” (*Psalms 27:14*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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