

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**

**S3E12**

**Title – Was Joseph A Righteous Man?**

**Description – When the Bible says that someone was “Righteous” what does that mean? Are they set apart from the rest of us? Or is this something that we can be called as well?**

We've finally gotten out of the Genealogy. Matthew's been proving that Joseph is NOT the biological father.

Matthew 1:18

<sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

If someone was betrothed in the first century, or engaged, it was like being married, without sleeping together. It was a serious thing, and to break the betrothal would require divorce papers.

Why do we think Joseph was older? Mid twenties? Because after the story of Jesus in the temple when he's 12, we don't hear from Joseph in the gospels again.

Matthew 1:19

<sup>19</sup> So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

“Her husband” - because this was part of the betrothal process.

“Being a righteous man” - means to live in a way where when you sin, you are quick to confess it. Another example, Luke 1:5-6, <sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both were righteous in God's sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord.

So when you sinned, you confessed it, and you made the right sacrifices for your sin to be right with God.

Why is that important? Because not everyone was doing that in the 1st century.

Joseph isn't perfect, but he's seeking after God. He's put himself in a position to receive the favor of God.

Mercy is not getting what you deserve. Grace is getting what you don't deserve.

So Joseph, Mary, Zachariah and Elizabeth lived in such a way where they could receive grace from God. They didn't earn it, because as soon as you try to "earn" grace, it ceases to be grace.

Remember, Jews in the OT weren't saved by their works. Neither were believers after Jesus in the NT. Many have taught this, that to be "saved" in the Old Testament you had to keep the law and "do" and keep it. But what we see in the Bible is that their faith was looking forward to the Messiah, to the coming messiah and the cross.

The Cross is the dividing line. Before it, God's people looked forward by faith to the coming Messiah who would deliver us from our sins. After the cross, God's people are saved by looking back to the finished work of the Messiah on the cross.

Grace is: God did for us what we were incapable of doing for ourselves.

So, what was the purpose of the Law then?

The Torah, (Law) means, "way" or "direction" for life. This was how the people could connect with and be close to God.

Think about it with your pets or animals. If you live on a busy street, you're going to put in a fence to protect the animals when they're out in the yard playing.

The Law is there to protect. The Jews obeyed the law to find life, liberty, and freedom.

Christians tend to think that we're not under the law, but we are. What about the 10 commandments? Clearly we know it's wrong to murder or to rob, so we want some law to guard and protect us.

It's like that with any addiction. What you think will give you freedom, alcohol, drugs, etc, ends up building a prison cell of bondage that ensnares you and kills you.

Next week we'll talk about the dreams of Joseph in the New Testament.