

JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

Introduction

Joseph was the husband of **Mary, Mother of Jesus**. Since Jesus was conceived within Mary by the Spirit of God, Joseph is not the biological father of Jesus. He is considered to be the earthly or adoptive father of Jesus.

Joseph is mentioned in Matthew, Luke, and John, but not Mark. What is directly said about him is that he was a just or righteous man (**Matthew 1:19**). By inference, we learn he was God-honoring, displaying a pattern of obedience (**Matthew 1:20-24; 2:13-15; and 2:19-21**). When confronted with a pregnant fiancé with whom he had not had marital relations, even more positive aspects of his character were on display.

Joseph was a carpenter by trade and is referenced as such (**Matthew 13:55**). Joseph is likely to have taught Jesus his carpentry skills since Jesus is also called a carpenter (**Mark 6:3**). Joseph appears to have adopted Jesus and treated him like a son. In several scriptural passages, he is named as the father of Jesus, an attribution that is given to any man who adopts a son.

Despite not being the biological father of Jesus, Joseph was a descendant of King **David** and, further back, **Abraham** and other patriarchs. Joseph's inclusion in the lineage connection from Abraham to Jesus is recorded in **Matthew 1:1-16**. It should be noted, however, that Joseph is identified as the *husband of Mary*, rather than the father of Jesus (**Matthew 1:16**).

Speculation about Joseph's age and a possible previous marriage are revealed in non-canonical scriptures and are highly suspect. The authorized biblical narrative reveals Joseph as Mary's husband. Together, they had as many as four biological sons and a few daughters (**Mark 6:3**).

Joseph's Dilemma

Possibly the most revealing thing about Joseph was how he handled the embarrassing situation of a pregnant fiancé before they were married. Though commonplace and

absent of embarrassment in our day, it was a major dilemma in the culture of the first century where it carried immense social stigma. Joseph had every right to feel disgraced and could have easily broken the engagement. In fact, under Jewish Law, she could have been put to death by stoning ([Leviticus 20:10](#)).

Joseph's initial reaction was to break the engagement ([Matthew 1:19](#)). But Joseph took a different path, revealing sensitivity and kindness that many would not have in the same situation. Joseph handled the matter discreetly, then married Mary. He did so, knowing the circumstances were ordained of God ([Matthew 1:20-25](#)). This obedience and noble character were likely why God chose Joseph to be the adoptive, father figure for Jesus, the Son of God.

[Closing Thoughts](#)

Joseph, like Mary, has been venerated by some of the Christian world. Catholics, Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Anglicans all honor him as a 'saint.' His veneration among some includes the title of *Most Chaste*, a tribute to his being one of the parents of Jesus. Like Mary, we believe this veneration to be misplaced. Joseph was a person of faith and a saint by his association with Jesus, like all who have been redeemed, who worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is an introduction on the subject of **Joseph, Husband of Mary**. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore:

[Who was Joseph, the father of Jesus? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Joseph: Father of Jesus on Earth \(learnreligions.com\)](#)

[6 Things You Didn't Know About Joseph in the Bible | Interesting Facts About Mary and Joseph - Beliefnet](#)