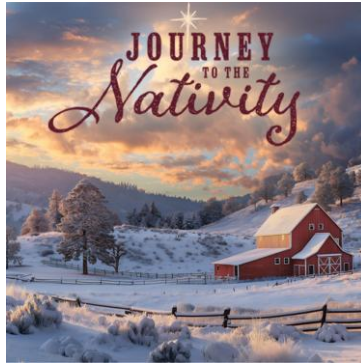


Journey to the Nativity

Week 2:

Joseph: Bringing Out the Best in People



Dr. Jeff King
Christ Lutheran Church
Southwick, Massachusetts

Joseph: Bringing Out the Best in People

The Christmas Story Begins

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)

Three Steps in a Jewish Marriage

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Reaction of Joseph

Joseph was a good man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace. So he decided to divorce her quietly. As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."....When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded. He brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until after her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus. (Matthew 1:19-25)

Three Keys to Bringing Out the Best in People

1. You are where _____

- You have something to offer _____

2. You will be _____

- The closest people to us _____

3. React to the _____ **by believing the** _____

- Your _____ really shows your Christianity.
- The normal reaction is, "How will this affect _____?"
- Joseph's reaction is, "How will this affect _____?"