



# **CHRISTMAS A MORAL CHOICE**

**Matthew 1:18-25**



# Matt. 1:18-20



Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. **Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.** But while he thought about these things,

# What's the right thing to do?

Joseph is a real hero of Christmas, a good example for us today, who, when confronted with a moral choice, made a **right** decision.

Life will present a lot of them;  
the small lies, the going along with the crowd,  
the ipod, the penny;

## What's the right thing to do?

# Remember Honest Abe ?

Doing what is right is what Christians should do all the time, but how?

Let's look at the example of Joseph

**“A Righteous man  
who made the right choice”**



# I. His Character – v.19

**Just (Dikaios) = upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God; rendering to each his due and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or shown by the manner of dealing with them.**

**”Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.” 1 John 3:7**

# Just (Righteous)

- **God sets the standard – Matt. 5:20, 48**
- **Laws copy the standard – Rom. 13:1-3**
- **Society effects the standard – Psm. 1:1**
- **Man tries but fails – Matt. 23:25-28**
- **God makes us just – 2 Cor. 5:21 1 Jn 2:21**

**Made just, we then are able to do what is right!**

***Right choices come out of a just heart***

## II. His Contemplation – vs. 19,20

“Thought on” (Enthumeomai) = to bring to mind, revolve in mind, ponder, to think, to deliberate. (*anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again*)

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. Philippians 4:8

## II. His Contemplation – vs. 19,20

Was minded (Boulomai) = be minded, of willing as an affection, to desire

Sin Hurts – Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10

We care – Proverbs 10:12, 17:9; Gal. 6:1

God said – Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4

God showed – Hosea 2:1; Jeremiah 31:3

God allowed – Deut 24:1; Matthew 5:31,32

# Deuteronomy 13:18

.... you have listened to the voice of the Lord your God, to keep all His commandments which I command you today, to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord your God.

**The just person will seek the standard of Right and Wrong to make the right choice!**

# III. His Confirmation - vs. 20-25

*The choice **chases** away fear* – v.20 “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.” Psalm **56:3**

*The choice is **clarified** by the Word* – v.22 “The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” Psalm **119:130**

*The choice is **followed** by obedience* – vs. 23,24  
“Only may the Lord give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.” 1 Chronicles **22:12**

**I CAN...**



**God has changed me from the inside out  
so I am able and want to do right.**

**God has given me a mind so I can know  
by the Word the right choice.**

**God has given me a will so I can chose  
and do what is right.**

**..DO WHAT IS RIGHT! WILL I?**