

**Title:** “Jesus’ Step-Father Hears From Jesus’ Real Father (God)”

**Scriptures:** Matthew 1:18–25; Isaiah 7:14; Exodus 13:2

**Pastor:** Dr. John Geeter

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### **Summary Overview:**

In this sermon, Pastor Dr. Geeter explains the unique role of Joseph in the birth of Jesus and how God personally intervened to guide him through a deeply confusing and emotional situation. He walks us through Matthew 1:18–25 and ties it to Old Testament prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 and Exodus 13:2, showing that the virgin birth was not random or accidental, but part of God’s intentional plan. Pastor Dr. Geeter states that Joseph, though only Jesus’ step-father legally, was chosen by God for a crucial assignment: to care for and protect the promised Messiah. Through Joseph’s story, we see what it looks like to wrestle with hard decisions, receive clarity from God, and ultimately choose obedience, even when it is costly and misunderstood by others.

### **3 Key Points:**

**1.** It is an Honor to be Chosen by God, yet Joseph had a Dilemma Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that Joseph was a righteous man who had done things the right way according to Jewish custom. Marriage in that culture involved a contractual agreement, a betrothal period, and then the final consummation. Joseph and Mary were in that betrothal stage when he discovered that she was pregnant, even though they had not been together physically. Pastor Dr. Geeter states that this put Joseph into a serious dilemma: he loved Mary, but he also wanted to honor God’s law. If he claimed the child was his, he would be lying and violating his conscience. If he accused her of adultery, she could be stoned according to the law. He was torn between his love, his reputation, his righteousness, and what seemed right in the eyes of others. While it was clearly an honor that God had chosen him to be connected to the coming Messiah, Joseph still had to process real confusion, hurt, and uncertainty. This tension reminds us as Christians that being chosen and used by God doesn’t mean life will be simple; sometimes it actually creates difficult decisions that require deep trust in God’s character.

**2.** In Times of Mental Anguish, Agonizing, and Struggling, God Sends Joseph a Dream as Joseph wrestled with what to do, Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that God did not leave him in that mental and emotional turmoil. Matthew 1:20 describes how, while Joseph was thinking on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. Pastor Dr. Geeter states that in that moment, God brought clarity: the angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, because what was conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit. The angel also connected Joseph’s situation to prophecy - Isaiah 7:14, which spoke of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son called Immanuel, “God with us.” Joseph realized that the Scriptures he had likely read many times were now being fulfilled in his own life. Pastor Dr. Geeter points out that this dream answered the questions in Joseph’s mind, calmed his fears, and confirmed that God was at work in a way Joseph never imagined. While God speaks to us today primarily through His Word rather than dreams, the principle still applies: when we are agonizing, struggling, and mentally overwhelmed, God knows how to meet us with truth, reassurance, and direction at exactly the right time.

**3. It Will Always Boil Down to Your Will to be Obedient – Joseph’s Decision** In the final point, Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that, after all the revelation and reassurance, everything ultimately came down to Joseph’s choice. Knowing the truth about Mary’s pregnancy was not enough; he still had to decide whether he would obey God. Matthew 1:24, 25 says that Joseph “did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him” and took Mary as his wife, and that he did not know her physically until after Jesus was born. Pastor Dr. Geeter states that this shows Joseph’s obedience was not partial - it was complete and costly. He was willing to face misunderstanding, gossip, and the difficulty of marrying a pregnant woman in that culture, simply because God said so. Joseph submitted his own feelings, comfort, and reputation to the will of God. For us as Christians, this is where it always lands as well. God can give us truth, direction, and confirmation, but we still have to decide whether we will surrender our will and obey, even when it stretches us or affects how others see us.

**Conclusion Overall:**

Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that Joseph’s story is not just a Christmas narrative—it is a powerful example of what it looks like to follow God in real life. Joseph was honored to be chosen by God, but that honor came with real tension and a serious dilemma. In his mental and emotional struggle, God stepped in and gave clarity through a dream, connecting Joseph’s personal situation to long-promised prophecy.

Finally, Joseph’s response shows that the turning point is always obedience. Pastor Dr. Geeter states that, just like Joseph, we as Christians must choose whether we will trust God’s Word, accept His plan even when it surprises us, and obey Him when it costs us something. In conclusion, this sermon challenged me to see Joseph not just as a quiet background character in the Christmas story, but as a man of deep character, humility, and courage. He listened to God, believed what God said about Mary and the child, and acted on it. As Christians reading and reflecting on this message, we are reminded that God still calls, still speaks through His Word, and still expects obedience. When we face our own dilemmas, seasons of mental anguish, or confusing circumstances, the question becomes the same: will we trust God enough to obey Him? Joseph’s example encourages us to say “yes” to God’s will, even when we don’t fully understand everything, knowing that His plans are bigger than ours and always tied to His purpose and glory.