

## THE HOME LIFE OF JESUS

Everyone who is married or contemplates marriage wants a happy home. This includes nearly everyone. The exception would be those whom God has designated with a gift of celibacy. This is spoken of in Matthew 19:12 and I Corinthians 7:20, 32-35. This is a rare gift. Most everyone else has been called to be married. No one intends to be married miserably; everyone wants to be married marvelously.

Today I want us to study the home of Jesus. We might appropriately ask in reference to our homes, "What was the home of Jesus like?" or "What would Joseph and Mary do?" Let's talk about it:

### **1. Mary and Joseph Lived Pure Lives Before Marriage.**

Matthew 1:18, 25.

We are considering the kind of home the Heavenly Father desired to have His Son reared in. Is it any surprise that He would choose a home where people lived virtuous lives? In the Old Testament the priests were required to take a wife who had never been with a man. Leviticus 21 pointed out that the one who officiates in the holy things of God must live, along with his wife, a very holy life. *"Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation"* (Psalm 24:3-5).

### **2. Mary and Joseph were saved.**

Matthew 1:19, Luke 1:47

Joseph was called a "just man." There is only one way to be just before God and that is through repentance and faith (Romans 3:23-26) in our Lord and Savior. Did you know that it was Joseph who declared the Babe's name was Jesus (Matthew 1:25) as commanded him by the Lord (Matthew 1:21)? The Lord's very name means Savior! In Luke 2:46-50 Mary recognizes Jesus as "God my Savior!"

For any home to enjoy the maximum happiness that God has for them, both the man and the woman need to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and be wholly and totally dedicated to Him. *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"* (II Corinthians 6:14). In Malachi 2:14-16, God tells Israel how very important the home is and that putting away is considered a treacherous thing. In the 15<sup>th</sup> verse of Malachi 2, God says, *"...Therefore take heed to your spirit..."* A happy and a blessed marriage is a spiritual matter. If our spirits are not in a revived state, any marriage is in drastic trouble. When our marriages are hurting, we need to pray with the Psalmist, *"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"* (Psalm 85:6). God's intent is that the union between a man and a woman be joyful. *"Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth"* (Proverbs 5:18). *Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity..."* (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

### **3. Mary and Joseph were under the influence of older and godly people.**

Luke 1:39, 40, 56. Luke 2:25-40. Titus 2:1-7.

The younger generation sometimes gets the notion that fellowship with the older generations may not be profitable. Never judge the profitability of influence to be judged by popularity, fashion, likes or dislikes. There is so much wisdom that could and should be passed down from one generation to the next. There is a lesson showing the loss of not heeding the wisdom of previous generations in the study of Rehoboam found in I Kings 12:6-16.

### **4. God led the home through Joseph.**

Matthew 1:20, 24; Matthew 2:13, 14, 19-23; Matthew 13:55. Mark 6:3

We see a Divine order that God has instituted in I Corinthians 11:3-12. This truth is also spoken of in Ephesians 5:22-24. This is God's plan. In Judges 4 we are given the story of Deborah. Here we see the victory that God gave to Israel in spite of a failure in leadership of a man. Judges 4:8 and 9 show us the shame that comes to a man who does not stand up and step up to a call from destiny to lead.

### **5. Mary was not a complainer.**

Luke 8:19-21; Luke 11:27,28; Luke 2:19; 49-50; John 2:1-5; John 19:25; Acts 1:14.

I have always been touched by these words, *"Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed"* (Luke 2:35). Her Son was born to die. Most every day of Christ's life until He was thirty was spent in the home with Mary. Then at thirty, He had to leave the shop to the younger children and He was consumed with preparing for the one main mission in His life on this earth: to die for our sins, be buried and rise again and finally ascend to the Father's right hand. The filial relationship never runs more deeply than that of a mother toward her child. Take a child from a mother and you will see something so heart-breaking that words cannot express. As is the case with us human beings, when we hurt, we complain. Show me one place in Scripture where Mary complains. I will save you the time of looking; it is not there. Not one complaint is recorded.

There is a practical truth that must be noted here. When we complain, we are telling our children that we disapprove of the circumstances God has brought or allowed in our lives. When we complain, we are leaning on our own understanding and rebelling against God's plans (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

## **6. Mary and Joseph prayed.**

Matthew 2:19b, 20; Acts 1:14.

*"...Behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life"* (Matthew 2:19b, 20). *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren"* (Acts 1:14).

The elephant in the room of parenting is that we are all running scared. We are constantly placed in situations that we have not been trained for. We can read all the books on parenting and attend all the seminars, but there are times that moms and dads will look at each other and say things like, "Dad and Mom didn't tell me this would happen!" or "This never happened to my parents!" or "They didn't teach this course in college!" or "Now what?" The truth of the matter is, we don't have enough wisdom to rear children. We must have help from the Lord. *"For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly"* (Proverbs 2:6, 7). *"For God giveth to a*

*man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail..." (Ecclesiastes 2:26a). Wisdom is available. It even cries out to us according to Proverbs 8:1-6. God wants to show us wonderful things. All we need do is ask: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). "O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth" (Isaiah 25:1).*

Joseph and Mary lived in constant communion with God. God did wonderful things in their lives and even gave them the gift of rearing up the One and Only Wonderful One (Isaiah 9:6)! And God wants to do wonderful things in your home; so pray!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.