

## IT'S A BOY BUT, HE'S NOT MINE

**MATTHEW 1:18-25**

### INTRODUCTION

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING, "THE ACORN DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE.

IT'S ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING THAT CHILDREN USUALLY HAVE MANY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR FAMILY.

FAMILY TRAITS USUALLY REFLECT THEMSELVES IN EACH SUCCEEDING GENERATION OF THE FAMILY.

- A. GRANDFATHERS ARTISTIC EYE MAY SHOW ITSELF IN A SON, GRANDSON OR GREAT-GRANDSON.
- B. A GRANDMOTHER'S PATIENT NATURE MAY SHOW ITSELF IN A DAUGHTER, GRANDDAUGHTER OR GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER.
- C. THE QUICK TEMPER OF A GREAT GRANDFATHER SOMETIMES SHOWS UP IN THE PERSONALITIES OF MANY GENERATIONS THAT FOLLOW HIM

WHENEVER A CHILD IS BORN, A PORTION OF HIS PARENTS PERSONALITY IS STAMPED ON HIS SOUL.

SOMETIMES THE PERSONALITY OF ONE FAMILY IS MORE DOMINANT THAN THE OTHER.

WHATEVER THE CASE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, THAT OLD SAYING IS TRUE, "ACORNS DON'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREES".

### **I. WHAT ABOUT A MAN BORN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD? HOW CAN WE KNOW HIM?**

- A. **A MAN WHO PROFESSES TO BE A CHILD OF GOD WON'T BE HARD TO RECOGNIZE.**

1. HE WILL BE EASILY RECOGNIZED BECAUSE HE WILL BEAR A STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO OTHERS IN THE FAMILY OF GOD WHO ARE ALSO STAMPED WITH THE PERSONALITY OF THE SAVIOR.
2. JESUS SAID, “YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THE FRUIT THEY BARE.”

**B. AS CHRISTIANS EACH OF US HAS BEEN BORN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD**

1. WE CAN BE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY OUR WILLINGNESS TO DO RIGHT INSTEAD OF WRONG.

**II. THE WORDS OF OUR TEXT CONSIDERS JOSEPH AS HE RECEIVES A MESSAGE FROM GOD ABOUT HIS FIANCEE’, MARY.**

**A. THE ANGEL TOLD JOSEPH THAT MARY HAD CONCEIVED A CHILD BY THE INTERVENTION OF GOD HIMSELF.**

1. JOSEPH WAS TOLD THAT GOD HAD INTERRUPTED THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS AND PREPARED A BODY THROUGH WHICH THE “WORD” WOULD BECOME FLESH.

**B. GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE BUSINESS OF PREPARING.**

1. HE PREPARED AN ARK FOR NOAH AND HIS FAMILY.
2. HE PREPARED A GREAT FISH TO SWALLOW JONAH.
3. HE PREPARED A CITY FOR THE REDEEMED.
4. AND HE PREPARED A BODY FOR CHRIST TO MAKE HIS ENTRY INTO THE WORLD.

**C. MARY WAS ABLE TO CONCEIVE WHILE YET A VIRGIN BECAUSE GOD PREPARED HER BODY IN ADVANCE.**

1. IN THIS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, JOSEPH WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A STEP-FATHER OF A SON WHO WOULD NOT BE ANYTHING LIKE HIM.
2. MARY WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A MOTHER TO A SON WHOSE PERSONALITY WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HER OWN.
3. MARY WAS JUST A MEANS BY WHICH GOD HAD PREPARED A WAY FOR THE “WORD” TO ENTER INTO THE SOCIAL ORDER OF MANKIND.
4. GOD PREPARED IT THAT WAY FROM THE BEGINNING.

**D. JUST LIKE GOD PREPARED A WAY FOR THE WORD TO BECOME FLESH, GOD PREPARES THINGS FOR US.**

1. NOTHING CAN OCCUR IN OUR LIVES THAT GOD HAS NOT ALREADY PREPARED FOR. \*\*
2. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WILL COME IN THE FUTURE, BECAUSE GOD HAS PREPARED A WAY FOR OUR SALVATION.
3. TRULY “ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THEM THAT LOVE THE LORD”.
4. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE, GOD HAS ALREADY PREPARED A WAY.
5. DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR ENEMIES REMEMBER THE WORDS OF DAVID.
  - a. “THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES.”

**E. GOD HAS PREPARED A WAY, AND WHEN WE REALIZE THAT GOD HAS MADE A WAY:**

1. MISFORTUNES WILL NOT SCARE US.
2. TROUBLES WILL NOT TORMENT US.
3. SORROW WILL NOT TERRIFY US.
4. DISAPPOINTMENTS WILL NOT PROVOKE US
5. PERPLEXITIES WILL NOT VEX US.
6. BURDENS WILL NOT RESTRAIN US.
7. PROSPERITY WILL NOT SPOIL US.
8. POVERTY WILL NOT FRUSTRATE US.
9. AND FAILURE WILL NOT OVERCOME US.

**F. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT GOD'S GOT IT ALL IN HIS HAND.**

1. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW CHALLENGING THE FUTURE MAY BE, JUST REMEMBER THE SONG WRITER WHO WROTE.
  - a. "LIKE A SHIP THAT'S TOSSED AND DRIVEN, BATTERED BY AN ANGRY SEA, WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING AND THE FURY FALLS ON ME, I WONDER WHAT I HAVE DONE, THAT MAKES THIS RACE SO HARD TO RUN, THEN I SAY TO MY SOUL, TAKE COURAGE, THE LORD WILL MAKE A WAY SOMEHOW".

**III. LET US LOOK AT THE PERPLEXING SITUATION JOSEPH FOUND HIMSELF IN.**

**A. HE WAS TO BE A STEP-FATHER FOR A CHILD THAT WAS NEITHER HIS NOR HIS WIFE'S.**

1. THIS BOY DIDN'T HAVE THE X OR Y CHROMOSOMES OF THE STEP-FATHER OR THE MOTHER.
2. MARY CARRIED THE BOY FOR 9 MONTHS AND CAVE BIRTH TO HIM IN BETHLEHEM BUT HE HAD NONE OF HER GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS,

**B. IF THIS CHILD HAD BEEN LIKE MARY AND JOSEPH, WHO WERE FROM THE FAMILY OF DAVID, THE NATURE OF THIS BOY WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.**

1. IF JOSEPH COULD HAVE SAID "IT'S MY BOY", THE BOY MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKE HIS GREAT UNCLE ESAU, WHO SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT FOR A BOWL OF PORRIDGE.
2. IF JOSEPH COULD HAVE SAID, "IT'S MY BOY," THE BOY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ADULTERER LIKE HIS GREAT GRANDFATHER DAVID, WHO KILLED A MAN JUST TO MAKE LOVE TO HIS WIFE.
3. IF JOSEPH COULD HAVE SAID, "IT'S MY BOY," THE BOY COULD HAVE BEEN A LADIES MAN LIKE HIS GREAT-GRAND FATHER SOLOMON WHO HAD 300 WIVES AND 700 CONCUBINES.
4. IF JOSEPH COULD HAVE SAID, "THIS IS MY BOY", THE BOY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SON OF GOD.

**C. AS JOSEPH LOOKED AT THE CHRIST CHILD, HE COULD SEE THAT HE LOOKED JUST LIKE HIS FATHER.**

1. THESE LITTLE HANDS WERE NOT LIKE JOSEPH'S HANDS, BUT THEY WERE JUST LIKE THEIR FATHER'S HAND.
  - a. THESE LITTLE HANDS CREATED THE WORLD.
  - b. THESE ARE THE HANDS THAT HALLOWED OUT THE VALLEYS,

- c. THESE ARE THE HANDS THAT PILED UP THE MOUNTAINS.
2. JOSEPH LOOKED AT THE BOYS EYES AND THEY WERE NOT LIKE JOSEPH’S EYES. BUT THEY WERE JUST LIKE HIS DADDY’S EYES.
- a. THESE ARE THE EYES THAT LOOK BEYOND THE SUPERFICIAL AND TRANSCENDS TO THE DEPTHS OF A MAN’S SOUL.
- b. THESE ARE THE EYES THAT NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP.
- c. THESE ARE THE EYES THAT SAW US IN OUR INFANCY, KEPT WATCH OVER US IN OUR PRESENT, AND PEERED INTO OUR FUTURE.
- d. THESE ARE THE EYES THAT ARE ON THE SPARROW AND I KNOW HE WATCHES OVER ME.”
3. **THIS BOY HAD A HEART BUT IT WASN’T LIKE JOSEPH’S’ HEART IT WAS A HEART JUST LIKE HIS FATHER.**
- a. THIS HEART WAS A HEART FILLED WITH LOVE.
- b. THIS WAS NOT PHILEO LOVE, BETWEEN FRIENDS.
- c. THIS WAS NOT EROS LOVE BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND HIS WIFE.
- d. BUT THIS WAS AGAPE LOVE OF GOD.
4. THIS IS THE LOVE THAT JOHN TALKED ABOUT IN [ST. JOHN 3:16].
- a. “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT

WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”

- b. I HEARD JESUS SAY, “GREATER LOVE CAN NO MAN HAVE THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **IT WAS A BOY, BUT I’M GLAD IT WASN’T JOSEPH’S BOY.**

##### **A. HE WAS THE SON OF GOD. HE WAS THE BOY,**

1. WHO BECAME THE LILLY OF THE VALLEY AND THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.
2. WHO TURNED WATER TO WINE AND WHO GAVE SIGHT TO THE BLIND.
3. WHO MADE THE LAME WALK AND THE DUMB TALK.
4. WHO DIED ON THE CROSS.
5. WHO STAYED IN THE GRAVE
6. BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.

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