



PERSPECTIVE: “Joseph –Dealing with Dilemmas”

Dec 02, 2018 – Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. What does “Perspective” imply?

Engage:

⇒ Perspective: To compare something to other things so it can be accurately and fairly judged.

“²⁶ God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.”

Luke 1:26-27

- **Mary and Joseph** lived in **Nazareth**. *Humble lives.*
- **Mary** a ‘mature’ *teenager*.
- Joseph descendent of **King David**. (*God’s Plan*).
- **David: DIFFERENT but GODLY PERSPECTIVES** to others.
- **David learned how to face his giants** (i.e. Goliath).
- **Saul (King) – tried to IMPOSE PERSPECTIVES** (*armour*).
- *Learning: Build your PERSPECTIVES on GOD*, not others!
- Gospel of **Matthew starts with lineage**.

Framework:

“This was how Jesus, God’s Anointed One, was born. His mother, Mary, had promised Joseph to be his wife, but while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:18

- ‘Childhood Sweethearts’? No mention of an ‘arranged marriage’.
- Joseph: Mary’s choice (romance, love... high expectations?).
- Engagement usually entered into when girl turned 13.
- Prenuptial agreement (ketubah) Hebrew culture, engagement = witnesses, bridegroom legal rights over girl. Agreement only nullified through formal divorce process. Girl still lived with family, sexual relations prohibited until the public marriage ceremony.

2. What happens in betrayal?

3. What are your experiences of betrayal?

“3 For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. 4 But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword.”

Proverbs 5:3-4

- **Sweet words** can hide **bitter outcomes** – **Joseph knew scripture** – Purity and trust was expected.

“Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies.”

Psalm 24:3-4

- **Reputations, Future...** Disastrous “sink hole”.
⇒ “High Expectations became Low Estimations”.
4. What was Joseph’s dilemma?
5. What were his feelings?
6. Did Joseph trust God?
7. **Joseph understood INTEGRITY & HONESTY: He didn’t want to destroy Mary** despite disappointment, ‘Joseph not only tried to do what was right, he also tried to do it in the right way.’

⇒ *“The strength of our belief can be measured by how much we are willing to suffer for those beliefs.”*

8. Read and discuss Proverbs 11:3 & Proverbs 21:3.
9. How does/can great loss greatly impact your faith?
10. Is your PERSPECTIVE driven by regrets/emotions? (1 Samuel 30:6 – David strengthened himself in God).
11. Read Matthew 1:20-21; what was Joseph’s response?
 - Joseph - prospect of raising someone else’s Son (God’s).
 - “Jesus” - Hebrew Name Yeshua, “Yahweh = salvation, restoration, deliverance.”
 - Angel appeared in a dream (1st of 3 vital revelations).
 - *“Circumstances didn’t change but Joseph’s PERSPECTIVE did”.*

⇒ ***“God’s plan is NOT always about changing our circumstances but changing our PERSPECTIVES.”***

12. Read Matthew 1:24-25; when you hear God, do you obey?
 - **Joseph discovered that God removes our SHAME (Isaiah 50:7 & Psalm 25:3).**
 - **God promises a PROSPEROUS LIFE for OBEDIENCE (Deuteronomy 5:33).**
13. In what ways may God want to change your PERSPECTIVE?

⇒ **Lessons from Joseph’s life:**

- **Social position** is of little importance when God chooses to use us.
- **Feelings are not accurate** measures of the rightness or wrongness.
- **God honours** integrity, our choice – “BLAME” or “BUILD”.

- **Being obedient to God's guidance** leads to **more guidance** from him.

Prayer:

“Father help me to draw close to you, to understand my circumstances better and to know how to have your perspective in every situation. Help me to understand how to build my faith and understand your peace.
In Jesus name, Amen.”

Going Deeper

Personal Spiritual Response

How is God speaking into your life right now? What decisions need to be made?

Have you made a personal commitment to fully trust in Jesus? Have you been baptised? If not, there is information at bcc.church/baptism to learn more.

Why not contact the Pastoral team to consider whether baptism, an Alpha Course or joining a Life Group could be a next step for you? Contact info@bcc.church for more information.

Serving Opportunity

BCC's directory of service opportunities <https://bcc.church/ministries> may help you find an opportunity to grow spiritually, whilst helping others.