



The Forgotten Man of Christmas

Matthew 1:18-25







What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say. *(R.W. Emerson)*

What Joseph did spoke so loudly that it was not necessary for him to say anything at all. *("The Forgotten Man of Christmas", Dr. Joel C. Gregory)*



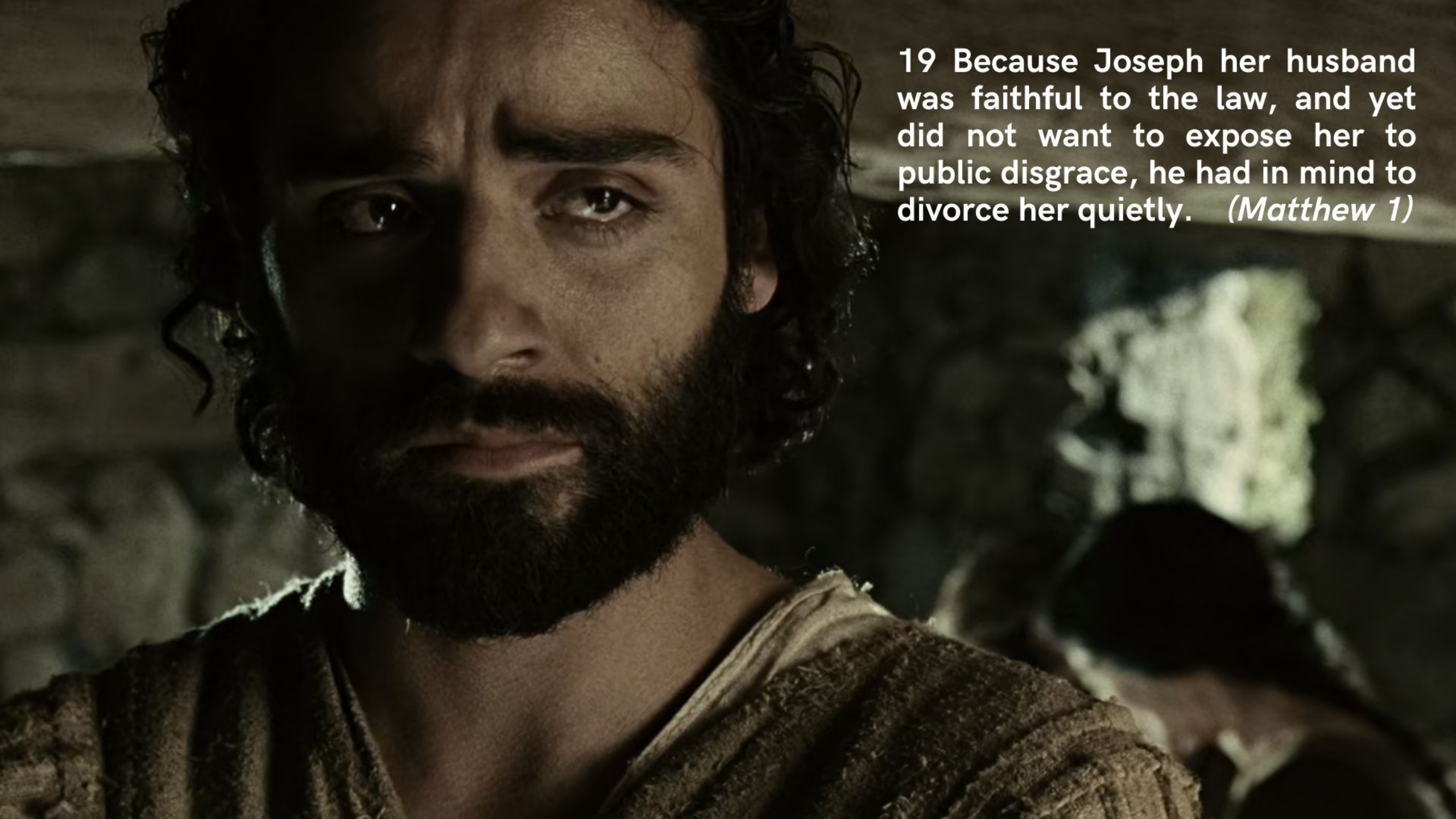
Crushing News

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 1)*

Erusin:



THE
BETHROTHAL



19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. *(Matthew 1)*

δίκαιος

dikaios / observant of custom and social rule

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was mindful to put her away secretly. *(Matthew 1 NKJV)*

Public

Private

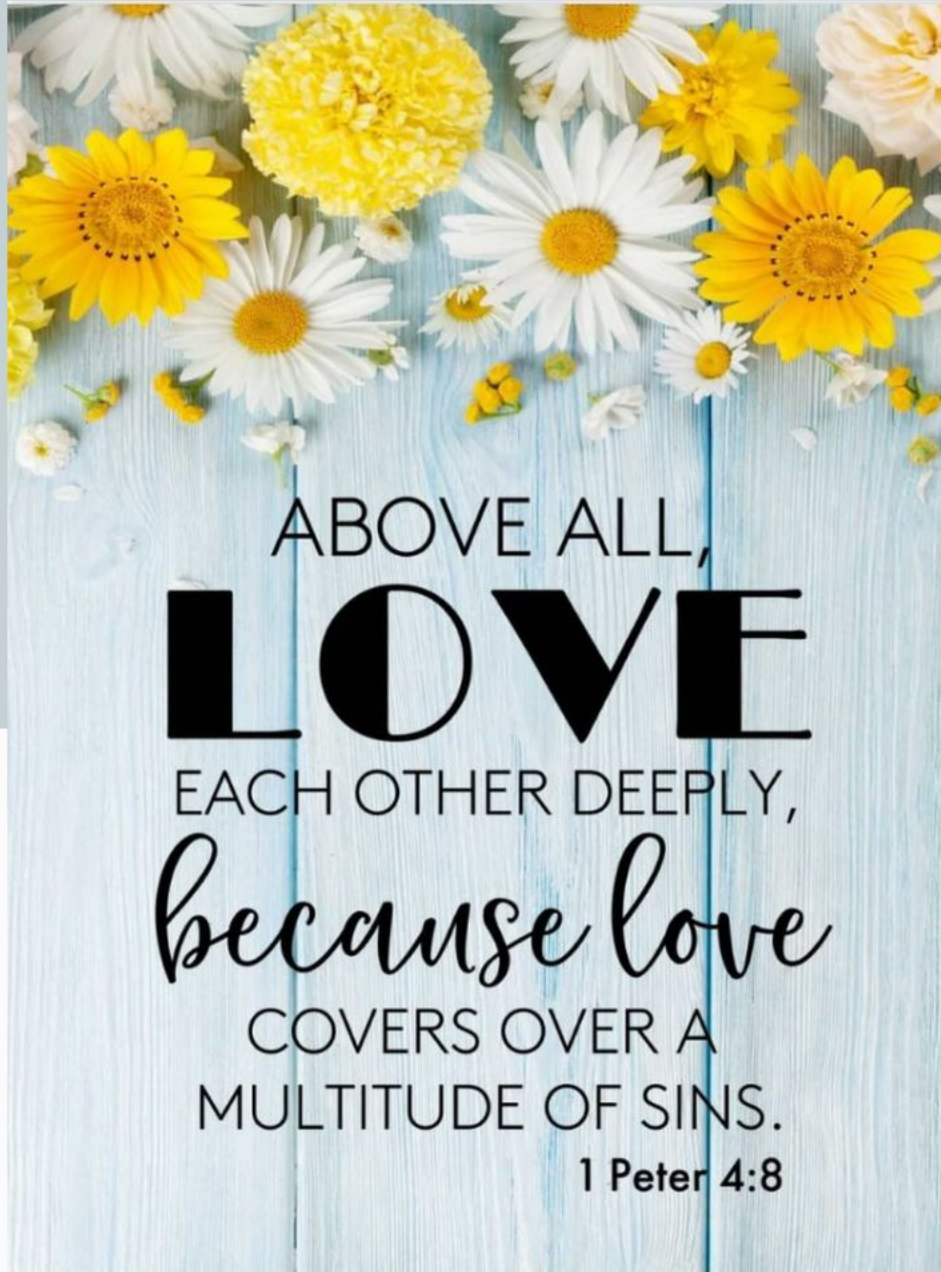


Compassion In Pain



Matthew 1

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



ABOVE ALL,
LOVE
EACH OTHER DEEPLY,
because love
COVERS OVER A
MULTITUDE OF SINS.
1 Peter 4:8

Here is the greatness of Joseph. He loved her even though he thought she had been unfaithful to him. His love covered her shame.

Ray Pritchard



Elizabeth Elliot

Just do the
next right thing.



Obedience In Fear

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' *(Matthew 1)*





Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and shall call his name Immanuel.



24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

(Matthew 1)



DR. JOEL C. GREGORY

We can obey God by staking everything on His Word alone.



Ray Pritchard

By marrying her quickly he broke all Jewish custom, but he protected Mary's reputation. She was pregnant and he wasn't the father but he married her anyway.

By keeping her a virgin until Jesus was born, he protected the miracle of Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit against slander by unbelievers.

By naming the baby he exercised a father's prerogative and thus officially took him into his family as his own legal son.

Trust in the Lord

WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR
OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT
TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



Immediate Obedience



14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

22 ... Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,
23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

MATTHEW 2



“I have never had clarity. What I have always had is trust. So, I will pray that you trust God.”



The **Forgotten** **Man** of Christmas

He was **tough** when
he could have been weak.

He was **tender** when
he could have been harsh.

He was **thoughtful** when
he could have been hasty.

He was **trusting** when
he could have doubted.

He was **temperate** when
he could have indulged himself.





Compassion
Obedience





Joseph, The Carpenter

Georges de La Tour