

# Scripture Passages about St. Joseph

## Gospel of St. Matthew

**Matthew 1:18-25** – In this passage, St. Matthew tells us about “how the birth of Jesus came about.” The first thing we learn is that “Mary was betrothed to Joseph” at the time of Joseph’s visitation by an angel. Some scholars today explain that “betrothal” in Jesus’ time meant “marriage.” Marriage took place in stages and the first part involved the couple living separately. As Joseph and Mary were married, the first virtue we see operative in St. Joseph’s life is the ability to **COMMIT/MAKE A COMMITMENT**. This shows his strength of character and personal **INTEGRITY**.

As we read the passage further, we learn that God’s angel visited St. Joseph in a dream. This was the same way that God worked in the lives of some holy people in the Old Testament. From this detail in the narrative we see that St. Joseph’s life is connected to the entire story of salvation history and his decision to accept Mary into his home had major implications in salvation history.

Joseph was **OBEDIENT** to God’s command to “take Mary, your wife, into your home.” He also **LISTENED** to God speaking to him. St. Joseph can help us, through his prayers, to also learn to listen to God in prayer and be obedient to God’s directions.

**Matthew 2:13-15**- Here, St. Matthew shows us, once again, St. Joseph listening to the Lord’s instructions and obeying them. St. Joseph acted **WISELY, IN LOVE, TO PROTECT** his family from danger. St. Joseph took seriously his **RESPONSIBILITIES** as husband and father and acted as **SPIRITUAL HEAD** of his family, **LEADING** it in **FAITH**.

**Matthew 2:23**- After God directed St. Joseph to bring the Holy Family back from Egypt, St. Matthew tells us that St. Joseph took his family to Nazareth so biblical prophecy could be fulfilled. In this action we see that in all things, St. Joseph

**DISCERNED** carefully God's will and carried it out. He made decisions thoughtfully and prayerfully.

## Gospel of St. Luke

**Luke 2:15-20-** After "the angels went away from them to Heaven," the shepherds visited the Holy Family in Bethlehem. They found "Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger." This brief snapshot in the life of the Holy Family shows that St. Joseph was involved in the rearing of Jesus and was an involved parent. Joseph **MADE TIME** to spend with his wife and foster son and realized that his **PRESENCE** was necessary for the healthy and holy functioning of his family.

**Luke 2:22-38-** St. Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus to Jerusalem for the Presentation in the Temple. His participation in this event showed his **THANKFULNESS** to God for the gift of a child. In verse 33, He, with Mary, was "amazed at what was said about (Jesus)." This amazement was a manifestation of the working of the Holy Spirit in his life, through the gift of **FEAR OF THE LORD**.

**Luke 2:52-** St. Luke tells us that Jesus "went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them" after Mary and Joseph found Him in the Temple with the teachers of the Law. What is implied in this passage is that St. Joseph and Mary worked together jointly to raise Jesus and form him in faith and virtue. It was the responsibility of both of them. St. Joseph and Mary worked as a **TEAM, SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER (BEING CONSISTENT)** and made decisions **TOGETHER** for the benefit of their family. This gave Jesus the right environment to grow strong, wise and to receive God's favor as Scripture tells us.

**Luke 3:23-** St. Matthew tells us that Jesus began His ministry at "about 30" and that at this time some thought he was "the son...of Joseph." This shows that St. Joseph acted in **PRUDENCE** by not spreading around to his neighbors the whole story of how Jesus came to be born. He **QUIETLY** and **CONFIDENTLY** carried out his responsibilities as foster-father to the Lord until Jesus' adulthood. This gave Jesus the **SECURITY** He needed to properly develop into the person God wanted Him to be.

**Luke 3:30-** St. Joseph's name is mentioned in St. Matthew's long genealogy. His presence in this genealogy shows that God worked over thousands of years to carry out His plan. Each individual in that plan said **'YES' to God's grace** leading him to act and participate with God in the begetting of future generations.

## Gospel of St. Mark

**Mark 6:3-** Here, St. Mark captures the words of the people of Nazareth when Jesus returned there after beginning His public ministry. They call Jesus a "carpenter" and "the son of Mary." Jesus learned his trade from his foster-father. This took time and practice to teach. The fact that Jesus was known as a carpenter means that St. Joseph showed **PATIENCE** and **PERSEVERANCE** in teaching his foster son his trade. The time this took showed that St. Joseph **INVESTED HIMSELF** in his foster son's life, communicating to him his **VALUE** and **WORTH**. Ultimately, the time St. Joseph spent with Jesus conveyed to Him his **LOVE, CARE** and **RESPECT**. St. Joseph's investment in his foster son's life later gave Him the **STRENGTH** he needed to resist the temptation to despair or lose heart when He was rejected by others.