****

HE LEARNED IT FROM SOMEWHERE

Matthew 1:18-24; 21:28-32

Matthew 21:28-31 (NLT), 28“But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’  29The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go,’ but later he changed his mind and went anyway. 30Then the father told the other son, ‘You go,’ and he said, ‘Yes, sir, I will.’ But he didn’t go. 31“Which of the two obeyed his father?” They replied, “The first.” . . .

The Standards Joseph Lived With

Standard 1: Merciful Righteousness

Matthew 1:18-19 (NLT), 18This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. 19Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagementquietly.

Standard 2: Difficult Obedience

Mathew 1:20-25 (NLT), 20As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: 23“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,which means ‘God is with us.’” 24When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

The Standards Joseph Led With

Standard 1: Joseph taught his kids to succeed in the world.

Mark 6:3 (NLT), Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us . . .

Hebrews 12:11 (NLT), No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful!

But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in

this way.

Standard 2: Joseph taught his kids to value God’s House and Word.

Luke 4:16 (NLT), When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.

*“When policymakers consider America’s grave social problems, including violent crime and rising illegitimacy, substance abuse, and welfare dependency, they should heed seriously the findings in the professional literature of the social sciences on the positive consequences that flow from faithful church attendance.” -* Dr. Pat Fagan, Senior Fellow at the Marriage and Religion Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

Questions:

1. What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
2. What will you do because of it?
3. How can we pray for you?

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