



SAINT JOSEPH

THE MAN WHO
RAISED JESUS

TUESDAY AGENDA

- 7:05 Opening Song/Prayer
- 7:15–7:40 Session One
- 7:40 Break
- 7:45–8:10 Session Two
- 8:15 Closing Song/Prayer
- 8:25 Good Night

FIRST EVENING CONTENTS

- The Spouse of Mary
- The Foster-Father of Jesus
- Man of Obedience
- Man of Faith
- Man of Hope
- Man of Charity
- Man of Courage

THE SPOUSE OF MARY

- Genealogies of Joseph (Matt 1:1-18, Luke 3:23-28)
- “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife.” Matt 1:20
- Joseph’s “yes” to wed Mary despite her condition is almost as important as Mary’s FIAT
- Joseph and Mary are the “first couple” of the New Testament, though completely chaste
- Perhaps Joseph and Mary had ties to the Essenes, which might explain her intent to lifelong virginity and Joseph’s acceptance of this, even if married
- A sign of God’s kingdom where men and women “neither marry nor are given in marriage” (Matt 22:30)
- Jesus blesses marriage at Cana, showing it to be an efficacious sign of Christ’s presence

THE FOSTER- FATHER OF JESUS

- Joseph names Jesus, giving him *legal* authority
- “Your *father* and I have been looking for you anxiously” (Lk 2:48) Joseph is undeniably seen as the father of Jesus
- Joseph would have taught Jesus the Law, and Jesus clearly understood it
- Jesus was obedient to them (both)
- Joseph taught Jesus respect for women
- Joseph’s unwillingness to expose Mary to shame reveals the depth of his character
- Joseph modeled fatherhood to Jesus, and all of us take our first image of God from our own fathers

MAN OF OBEDIENCE

- Joseph, we are told, is a “righteous man,” obedient to the law
- Both Mary and Joseph listen to God first, even if in contradiction to Pharisaical legalism
- Joseph obeys the angel, putting God appropriately above the law
- Obedience means “to hear”
- On hearing of Mary’s pregnancy, Joseph was either suspicious, perplexed, or in awe. Which one? In any case, he believed the angel and married Mary.
- Note how Jesus interprets the law through the lens of obedience to God *first*
- Jesus may have learned from Joseph what it meant to “fulfill the law”

MAN OF FAITH

- Notice the remarkable faith Joseph displays in accepting the words of the angel
- Joseph's faith is not based on a doctrine, but to a baby in a womb - all faith is *personal*
- Jesus becomes the tangible sign of Joseph's faith
- Faith in God, from Joseph onward, is faith in Jesus
- Again, without hesitation, Joseph obeys the angel and takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod
- Notice that Joseph never has the full picture – he simply listens and immediately obeys
- Jesus grew up in a household of faith like no other before

TAKE A BREAK!



MAN OF HOPE

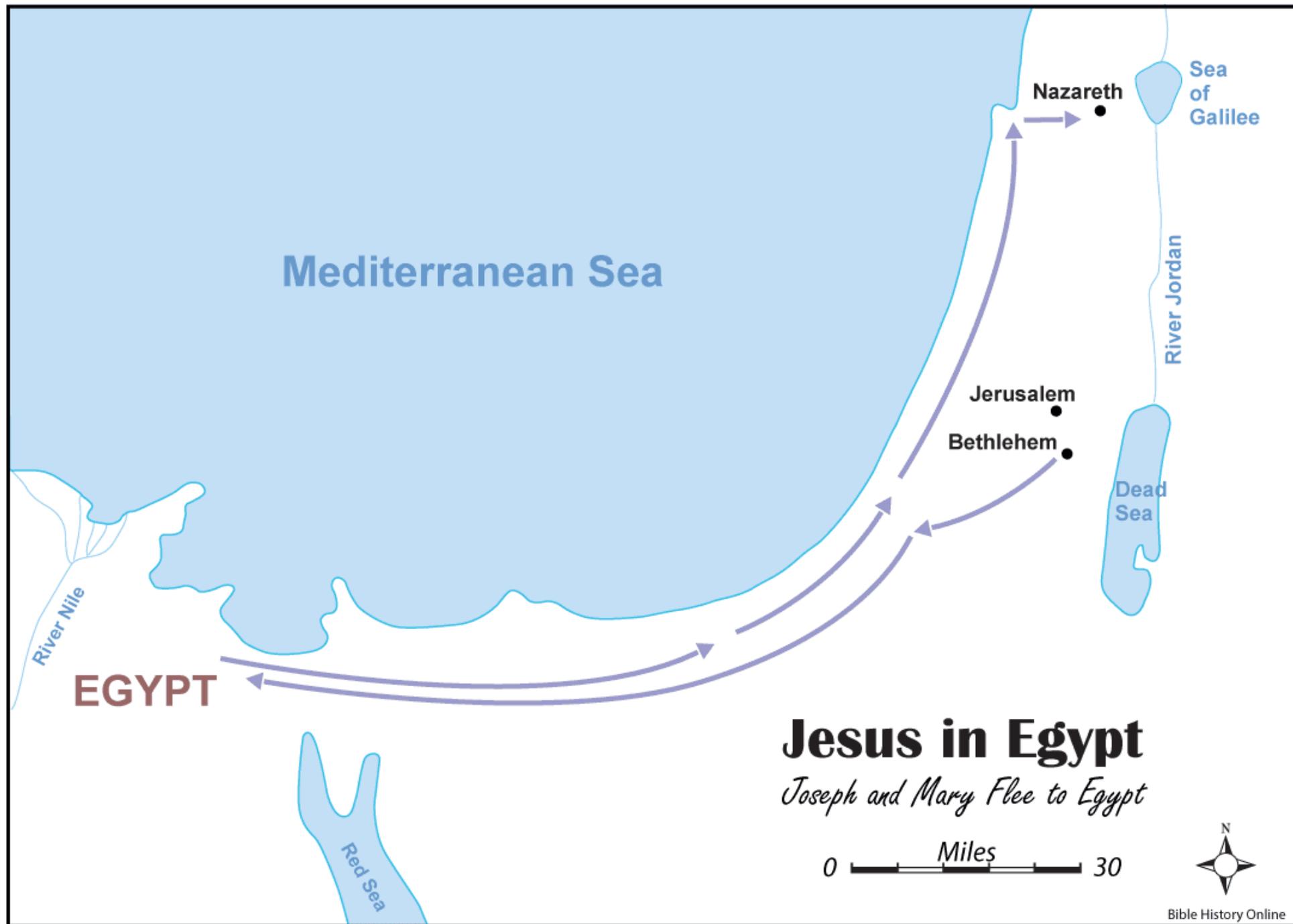
- *Joseph* in Hebrew means “God will increase”
- All of Israel lived in hope of God’s promises fulfilled
- Joseph sees that hope fulfilled in a baby boy who “will save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21)
- Jesus reorders Joseph’s life entirely
- Hope engages us in the plan of God, it is the fruit of a relationship with Christ
- Joseph is known as the patron saint of a happy death

MAN OF CHARITY

- By accepting Mary and the infant in her womb, Joseph crosses the threshold from the old law and steps into the kingdom of the new (love)
- The law of love involves sacrifice and suffering
- Joseph sees love of God and love of neighbor actualized – see Elizabeth, the shepherds, the Magi
- Just as Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, Joseph's heart was overshadowed by charity
- The new law of God's love permeates their home in Nazareth and sets the pattern of daily life
- Jesus grows in wisdom, age, and favor before God and man (Lk 2:52)

MAN OF COURAGE

- Joseph boldly accepts the responsibility which has been entrusted to him
- Even though Joseph is called Jesus' adoptive father, it is actually Joseph who is adopted into the family of Mary and Jesus
- It takes courage to accept what you do not understand
- When he takes the Holy Family into Egypt, does he have a guide? A map? How does Mary react?
- Joseph never wavers from the path God sets before him, even though he does not know where it leads
- Sometimes we are called to walk in the darkness, trusting God's word alone



OTHER OBSERVATIONS

- St. Joseph is often called “the shadow of the heavenly Father”
- It is love, not nature, that made Joseph the father of the Christ
- Joseph’s “happy death” is indisputable, surrounded as he was by Mary and Jesus
- Wednesday is typically set aside in honor of St. Joseph
- The Feast of St. Joseph (3/19) originated in the fifteenth century under Sixtus IV
- Joseph is a practical and resourceful model of sainthood

PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH
BY ST. JOHN EUDES



We greet you, Joseph, image of God the Father.
We greet you, Joseph, father of God the son.
We greet you, Joseph, temple of the Holy Spirit.
We greet you, Joseph, beloved of the Blessed Trinity.
We greet you, Joseph, faithful auxiliary
of God's designs.
We greet you, Joseph, spouse of the Virgin Mother.
We greet you, Joseph, father of all the faithful.
We greet you, Joseph, faithful to interior silence.
We greet you, Joseph, friend of holy poverty.
We greet you, Joseph, example of meekness
and patience.
We greet you, Joseph, mirror of humility
and obedience.
You are blessed among all men,
and blessed be your eyes, for all they have seen ...
Blessed be your hands which touched the Incarnate
Word.

Blessed be your arms which carried him
who carries the world ...
Blessed be your heart, burning with love for him.
Blessed be the eternal Father who chose you.
Blessed be the Son who loved you.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit
who sanctified you.
Blessed forever be those
who bless and love you.
Amen.

