

Focusing Christmas
“A Father Stands Strong”
Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas teaches us many great theological lessons—incarnation, messianic promises, the scarlet thread of redemption. But Christmas also calls us to obedience in every aspect of life, public and private. One forgotten actor in this drama provides a poignant example.

1. Characteristics of Obedience

- **Inward Traits**
 - ✓ **Godliness**
 - ✓ **Compassion**
 - ✓ **Law-Abiding**
 - ✓ **Courageous**
 - ✓ **Unselfish**

- **Outward Actions**
 - ✓ **Obeyed God with Immediacy**
 - ✓ **Obeyed God out of Painful Circumstances**
 - ✓ **Obeyed God in Spite of Fear**

2. Consequences of Obedience

- **Immediate Personal Impact**

- **Lifetime Course of Action**

3. Conclusion of Obedience

- **Inspiring Jesus’ View of God the Father**

- **Influencing Jesus’ Understanding of Submission**