

A Father Cares for His Son, Part 1

Two Fathers

- You have 2 frs. Strange to you; stranger, I've been teaching that to my kids since little. But true: for them/you – 2 frs. When pray at night, remind: I'm your earthly fr; love you, always will. But not perf; I'm sinful man. But also hvnlly Fr; perfect; loves you perfectly, always will; never leave you, always protect you. That's what I teach my children; what I want you know, too (whether earthly fr living/not, good dad/not, involved in life/not) – 2 frs, earthly, hvnlly.
- J had 2 frs, too. Had Fr in hvn – begotn of Fr from eternity – in Trinity tog (FSHS) – that's his hvnlly Fr (and ours!). Also earthly fr – Joe – not biolgcl, but ntl the fr-fig during childhood, adolescence of our Sav. And both dads really good – J's hvnlly/earthly fr – both cared for their Son! And so today (and, actly, next Sun also) we turn to opening chs of Mt, see how fr cares for Son (FCS).

Heavenly Father

- Mt writes, **vs. 18**. M was preg virgin. Never been intimate w/ man b4. Lord himself worked mrcel in M's womb; thru HS, caused her become preg. So J had no biolgcl fr; conceived by HS; truly miracle baby. But this never hap b4, ever. So Joe undstndbly dissettled. Here's woman he loves; thinks she's committed to him. But now preg, not bec of him; thinks she's been unfaithful. So **vs. 19c**.
- But FCS. God Fr wanted his Son J raised in nuclear fam, with fr/mr who'd love/care for J. M's virgin concepn was incred imp; but M needed husb help her raise J. And God Fr wanted Joe to be the fr figure in J's life. So **vs. 20a**; God sent angel, help Joe undstnd what going on here. Angel: **vs. 20b-21**. Think: God tasking Joe with being guardian of Son God. That his job! "Joe, I want you: bel really was mircls virgin concepn, M not unfthfl you; marry this girl, raise her Son as own child; and recgnz this baby also Son God!" That's asking lot Joe!
- But this: God Fr's master plan all along, to protect/care for his Son J, so J could grow up in stable/godly houshld, grow up be the man who'd preach/teach, suffer/die, rise/ascend, be Mes/Sav this world needs (we need). God was protecting our etern salv by entrstng his Son to parental safekeeping of the human man/woman he had hand selected: Joe/M. Their job: raise Son God. FCS. At Xmas we remem how God Fr carefully placed Son into safe/loving care/protection of Joe/M. FCS.

Earthly Father

- Now let's think re other fr, J's earthly fr. Don't know that much re Joe. Know took M/J to Jerslm when J 12. Don't hear anything re Joe during J's adulthood, so assume died sometime before J began his ministry. But are told **vs. 19a**, means righteous man; loved Lord/word; faithful, righteous belvr. And kind man. When found out M preg, could've run name thru mud, slandered; even taken court, got lot trbl w/ law. But **vs. 19b**, bec kind man. Dads, kind of man you'd want daught marry: godly, patient, levelheaded, loving/kind. Joe: good guy.
- Just look what did: 1st, belvd angel; takes lot faith! Then did marry M; did raise J. Think what that means: Joe changed diapers. Held hands as learning to walk. Worked trades job to food on table for fam. Took J to syngg, taught how read OT (imagine those fam devs: Son, think that's re you!). Hugd J when other kids made fun him bec mom (surely no one else belvd M preg virgin). Put arm around J when other kids picked on him for not joining in their sins. Taught J skills in carpentry (can see two them working side/side in workshop). *PDW picture*. J learned how be a man from man Joe. Maybe way J spoke, hand gestures, picked up from dad. Imagine sad day when J & M attended his funeral. Imagine happy reunion in heaven, when Joe pats J on back, good job Son. We may not know much re Joe; but what do: FCS. Joe cared for J; was the fr-fig in life Xp. And **vs. 25**; so very first time our swaddled infant Sav heard his name, came from lips of Joe – you, my Son, will be called J. FCS.

The Father Cares for Us

- So you can see how both hvnly Fr & earthly fr loved/cared for baby J. But what I want you also realize: thru it all, our hvnly Fr also caring for us. By caring for J, God also caring for us. Think re names this child. In reading, he's given 2 names. 1st called Jesus. Angel told Joe, **vs. 21bc**. Name J means Sav. Pronounced Yeshua; sounds lot like name Joshua (OT; today). So Yesh, Josh, J – all mean Sav. J came be our Sav – not from Roms, but from sins. When you see J: steadfastly saying no temptn, resolutely heading for Jerslm, innocently dying on cross, gloriously rising from dead – that is J saving us; that is J rescuing us from sin, Satan, hell. He's our Sav – J. 2nd name: Immanuel. **Vs. 22** (namely, Is 7), **vs. 23**. In Heb: Immanu (with us), El (God) – just like in Xmas window, Emmanuel. J is God, not vs us, not angry at us; but God with us – forever! **Mt 28:20**. J is with us always: when born/bapzd; during childhood; thru teens/20s; when get married, have children; with our children as they grow; during our older years; thru sickness/setback; and will be *with us* when draw last breath, to bring us be *with him* forever in hvn. J is Immanuel, God with us. By caring for J, God also caring for us: by giving us J Immanuel - a Sav who'd be with us forever, bring us be with him forever.

A Father Cares for His Son...to be continued...

- FCS. You have two frs – earthly, hvnly – and so did J. Today in this lesson we get see Fr in hvn caring for J (and also caring for us!) by entrusting him to loving care of earthly fr Joe. That's where we'll stop today. And this week ahead we'll worship newborn Sav, on Xmas Eve & Day. But then 1 wk from today, we're going to come back to this concept and pick this sermon back up with part 2. This is actually a 2-pt sermon spread over 2 wks. So this coming Sunday we'll see again how FCS.

Matthew 1:18-25

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. 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.

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."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

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.