

Mary & Joseph -- A Focus on Obedience

Two Things We Will Learn . . .

1. There are _____ of people (in fact, the vast majority) who want to celebrate Christmas in the true "Christmas _____," but are simply not _____ on the right things.
2. If _____ are your priority, you _____ miss Christmas.

The Scriptures

Luke 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. 22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." . . . 33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. . . . 39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. 41 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

The Difficulties for Joseph and Mary

- Public _____
- _____ and religious _____
- Lack of _____

Matt. 1:19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

-- _____
 Luke 2:35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Obedience

1. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to have Him _____ on the _____ for such a ceremony.

Lev. 12:3 On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.

Circumcision, and in fact much God's law, was to _____ us of our _____.



Why did Jesus have to be circumcised then?

Luke 2:51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. . . .

2. Joseph and Mary _____ their Son the _____ that the angel had _____ them to give to Him.

The name, Yeshua (Joshua) means "God is _____."

3. Joseph and Mary met the _____ requirements following childbirth and on the _____ day.

Lev. 12:3 On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. 4 Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over.

4. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to _____ Him to the Lord.

Ex. 13:2 "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal."

5. Joseph and Mary _____ at the _____ that had been given to this righteous man, Simeon.

6. When Joseph and Mary had _____ that the Law _____, they returned to Nazareth.

7. Every year, Joseph and Mary _____ the Feast of Passover because it was _____ of them.

Deut. 16:16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, . . .

8. When Jesus was 12, as was the _____, He was included in the _____ to Jerusalem.

Bar mitzvahs began _____ before the time of Jesus.

Consider:

1. We often think of obedience as _____ the things that we should _____ do. But in many instances, obedience is following the Lord and doing the things we _____ do.

2. Christians have _____ commands: to love _____ with our whole being and to love our _____.
- How do you evaluate your obedience in these commands?

Matt. 22:40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Father, in this Christmas season my hope is found only in your Son, Jesus Christ. I am continually thankful to you for all of life. I want to honor you with my obedience and I want to be like you as I give to others. Amen.