

Week 51  
348/17

**Transforming Daily**  
**“ . . . a just man . . . ”**  
*Matthew 1:19*

In America, with the divorce rate being well over 50% of all first marriages (in the world as well as in the church), it might be hard for someone to believe that Joseph didn't want to make a public spectacle of Mary even after his dream. He could have argued with reasons of personal humiliation, social disgrace, or family honor, but he didn't. He could have argued it wasn't fair. Why didn't he? Joseph was a just man.

Just as Mary, according to God's good pleasure and divine purposes, found favor in the eyes of the Lord, so did Joseph. It was no mistake or random act that Joseph would be the husband of Mary and subsequently the father of Jesus. God planned it and chose to work through these two to introduce Christ to the world.

Joseph didn't become just just before Jesus was born. Joseph *was* a just man (past tense). I don't know if that's a prerequisite for the favor of God. I'm inclined to believe not even though that is how Noah and Job are described. Suffice it to say that the favor of God on whom He chooses to bestow it is His business according to His good pleasure. Nonetheless, Joseph was a just man.

Just does not mean fair. Justice is related to righteousness while fairness is related to circumstances, comparisons, concessions, and compromises. Joseph knew what was right and did what was right, and now he was faced with something that was potentially unrighteous except for an angel of the Lord appearing before him in a dream. Hearing the message from the angel, as justice would have it, he not only took Mary as his wife to satisfy public interest, he “did not know her till she brought forth her first born Son” for what I believe to be personal satisfaction before God.

Is your life before God predicated on His righteousness or your sense of fairness? Do you live justly before God? Having His Word, the Bible, are you still in need of convincing by one of His angels to live justly, love mercy and to walk humbly before your God? Would you be considered by God to be a just girl, boy, woman or a just man?