

January 6 Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Praise

I join with the heavenly army and say, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:14). You gave the greatest news in the history of the world, not to the powerful, the wealthy, or the famous, but to a group of shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. Truly, though you “dwell in the high and holy place,” you also dwell with and “regard the lowly” (Isa 57:15; Ps 138:6). That means you dwell with me! Praise the Lord!

Today in Your Word

As I thought about what you told me today, I was challenged by the example of Joseph. To begin with, Joseph was a “righteous man” (Matt 1:19 NASB). This means he was where he needed to be spiritually when his world turned upside down, and that made all the difference. This highlights the importance of daily discipleship: listening to your Word, talking to you about what you said, walking by your Spirit, and keeping my conscience clear. If I do this, it will prepare me for the trials and difficulties of life.

Joseph didn’t react quickly or harshly to the news of Mary’s pregnancy. He didn’t rush to condemn her publicly. Instead, he was thoughtful and level-headed, and he prayed about it. That response enabled him to be receptive to the Spirit’s guidance when it came. This teaches me to stop and think and pray before I jump to conclusions without having all the facts. It also encourages me to learn to wait on you for wisdom (Prov 3:5–6; 8:34; James 1:5).

Joseph thought carefully about what to do, and when he finally decided to divorce Mary privately, you stepped in and gave him special guidance. This teaches me several lessons: (1) When I’m wronged, I should search for a way to be both just and merciful, (2) When I don’t know what to do, I can count on you to guide me, (3) When I’m frustrated and anxious about a decision, I can rest in knowing that you are working behind the scenes to accomplish your will. There is peace in trusting you!

Joseph didn’t waste any time doubting his dream, and he violated custom by taking Mary into his home immediately (Matt 1:24). He was quick to obey even though it meant personal sacrifice, for there was sure to be embarrassing fallout from his actions. This teaches me to follow your direction, even when it hurts. If I obey you like Joseph did, I will have your approval and blessing.

Reflection

Joseph’s life took a very unexpected turn when Mary got pregnant. I’m sure he never dreamed that his firstborn son would be laid in a manger in Bethlehem. This prompts me to ask myself—how do I react when things don’t work out like I planned? Do I grumble and complain, or wait patiently on you?

Request

Father, help me to imitate the example of Joseph. When things go wrong and storms sweep into my life, give me special grace to resist the temptations of doubt and fear and anxiety. Teach me to trust in you and rest in the certainty of your care.

Thanksgiving

Thank you for the good news of a Savior who is the Messiah (the Anointed One), the most High God. What great joy to know that he was born for me! (Luke 2:10–11).

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Suggested Hymn: “[While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks](#)” – Nahum Tate.
Meditation Verse: Matthew 1:21.