

Sequel Series IDEAL MEN

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**DOGS DON'T HAVE SOULS
THIS IS NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE**



**CATHOLIC DOGS GO TO HEAVEN
PRESBYTERIAN DOGS CAN TALK
TO THEIR PASTOR**



**CONVERTING TO CATHOLICISM
DOES NOT MAGICALLY GRANT
YOUR DOG A SOUL**

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Have you ever given much thought to Joseph, the husband of Mary, and how he conducted his life? He is often kept quietly in the background except for knocking on the door of the inn at Bethlehem during the Christmas pageants. Right now the spotlight is switching to Joseph so we can understand his character and how he was to significantly affect the course of history and eventually our own salvation story.

Just as Mary had special qualities in order to be chosen to be the mother of the Saviour, so Joseph was endowed with traits to be Jesus' earthly father. Joseph was courageous. Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married when the angel came to her announcing that God had chosen her to be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah- the "Anointed One." Mary wondered how this could be since she "knew not a man" (Luke 1:34). According to Jewish custom, after the betrothal ceremony, the Jewish couple lived apart until the man had constructed a home for them in his father's house. Then, when his father gave the word, the groom would come unannounced to claim his bride. Before Joseph was given the green light, the angel Gabriel told Mary that "the Holy Spirit would come upon her and

the Highest would overshadow her and that the Holy Thing born of her would be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Mary subsequently became pregnant, as Gabriel had foretold. According to Jewish law, if a girl became pregnant before marriage she was guilty and should be stoned.

Joseph had some options when he learned this news. He could let it be known why they were divorced and Mary, then, would have been brought to shame. Or, he could put her away quietly- perhaps she could go somewhere so the locals would be none the wiser. As Joseph reasoned his best plan of action, an angel visitation filled in some missing pieces of Joseph's puzzle. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream reminding him of his lineage and relationship to King David. "Joseph, son of David," spoke the angel. "Do not fear to take Mary as your wife for the baby she is carrying is of the Holy Spirit." The angel went on to tell him that the new arrival would be a boy baby and that He would be called Jesus because He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:20,21). Mary's story about her angelic visitation was verified. Joseph showed courage in accepting what has never happened before or since to any couple on earth. He bravely