

# A Page of His Word

## Grace Over Gossip

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Nazareth buzzed with whispers—Mary, pregnant? Scandalous questions swirled: "What will Joseph do?" The law offered harsh options, but Joseph's heart leaned toward mercy. Before the angel's message, grace stirred within him. He chose compassion over condemnation, shielding Mary from shame. Grace begins in quiet decisions to love, not judge.



### CHOOSE COMPASSION OVER CONDEMNATION EVERY TIME

Joseph's decision to send Mary away quietly reveals the power of grace to protect dignity, even in difficult circumstances. When he learned of her pregnancy, Joseph could have exposed her to public disgrace, as was his right under the law. Instead, Matthew 1:19 tells us he was "a righteous man" and did not want to shame her. Grace whispers when gossip shouts. It seeks to cover, not expose, as 1 Peter 4:8 reminds us: "Love covers a multitude of sins." Joseph's grace reflected God's heart, choosing compassion over condemnation. In our relationships, grace calls us to guard the dignity of others, even when we feel wronged. By choosing grace, we mirror God's tender mercy, restoring rather than destroying those around us.



### GRACE OPENS HEARTS TO GOD'S PLANS

Joseph's story teaches us that grace and obedience go hand in hand. After deciding to act graciously, Joseph receives divine guidance through the angel's words: "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife" (Matthew 1:20). Gossip would have clouded his ability to hear God's voice, but grace opened his heart to divine wisdom. James 1:19 urges us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." By refraining from rash words or public judgment, Joseph positioned himself to follow God's plan. When grace replaces gossip, we create space for God's purposes to unfold. Obedience flows more freely when our hearts are not weighed down by bitterness or malice but are lifted by the humility of grace.



### GRACE WRITES STORIES OF REDEMPTION DAILY

Joseph's grace-filled response to Mary's situation echoes God's own grace toward humanity. Just as Joseph chose to protect Mary, God chose to send His Son to save, not condemn, the world (John 3:17). Matthew 1:21 reveals that Mary's child would "save His people from their sins." Joseph's decision to act with grace became part of God's redemptive story. Gossip focuses on immediate judgment, but grace sees the bigger picture. It trusts that God is working even when circumstances seem unclear. In our lives, choosing grace over gossip allows us to reflect God's character and participate in His plans. Like Joseph, our acts of grace can become moments where God's love and purposes shine through, transforming lives and pointing to His greater story of redemption.

Grace always has the final word. Joseph's quiet decision to shield Mary wasn't just an act of kindness—it was a glimpse of how God moves in our stories. When gossip threatens to tear down, grace builds up. When condemnation looms, grace whispers hope. So, the next time gossip beckons, remember Joseph. Choose grace instead. Because when we replace gossip with grace, we don't just change the conversation—we reflect the love of a Savior who changed the world.

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