

Waiting in Confusion



Waiting in Confusion

Our reputation (what others think of us) is not as important as our identity (who we really are).

Spiritual formation begins when we untangle reputation and identity, and when what God thinks of us is more important than what we think of ourselves or what others think of us.



Waiting in Confusion

I Am A Tsadiq!



Waiting in Confusion

I Am A Tsadiq!
translated = “righteous”



Waiting in Confusion

I Am A Tsadiq!
translated = “righteous”

Problem –
“There’s something
about Mary...”



Waiting in Confusion

Reputation is Challenged



Waiting in Confusion

Reputation is Challenged

Matthew 1:18-19



Waiting in Confusion

Reputation is Challenged

Matthew 1:18-19

**could force Joseph to become
a Amha-aretz(?)**



Waiting in Confusion

Reputation is Challenged

Matthew 1:18-19

could force Joseph to become
a Amha-aretz(?)

translated – religious common



Waiting in Confusion

Appeal to Torah



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Appeal to Torah

**A.If Mary was seduced,
both her & baby's
father are killed**



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Appeal to Torah

**A.If Mary was seduced,
both her & baby's
father are killed**

**B.If Mary was raped,
rapist is killed**



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Appeal to Torah

- A.If Mary was seduced, both her & baby's father are killed**
- B.If Mary was raped, rapist is killed**
- C.If no guilty male, Mary drinks "water of bitterness" – *Numbers 5:11-31***

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Appeal to Torah

- A. If Mary was seduced, both her & baby's father are killed**
- B. If Mary was raped, rapist is killed**
- C. If no guilty male, Mary drinks "water of bitterness" – *Numbers 5:11-31***
- D. "token of virginity"**

Waiting in Confusion

Struggle with God



Waiting in Confusion

Struggle with God
Choice A – love God through
obedience to the Torah



Waiting in Confusion

Struggle with God

**Choice A – love God through
obedience to the Torah**

**Choice B – Love Mary & take
her as his wife**



Waiting in Confusion

Struggle with God

**Choice A – love God through
obedience to the Torah**

**Choice B – Love Mary & take
her as his wife**

Matthew 1:20-21



Waiting in Confusion

**I Am Mary's Husband &
Jesus' (legal) Father**



Waiting in Confusion

**I Am Mary's Husband &
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Matthew 1:24



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Matthew 1:24

**As Joseph's reputation is
getting worse, his identity
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Waiting in Confusion

**I Am Mary's Husband &
Jesus' (legal) Father**

Matthew 1:24

**As Joseph's reputation is
getting worse, his identity
is getting better**

**Decision was one of
obedience**



Waiting in Confusion

**Joseph learns that who he
is before God (identity) is
more important than who
he is in the circle of his
friends (reputation)**



Waiting in Confusion

It was through the reputation-losing death of Jesus that creates an identity-forming life for those who desire to receive the gift of God's grace & forgiveness through Christ.

