

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**Title: JESUS-Celebrating the Birth of Our Savior**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

### **Introduction**

What's your favorite story? Take a few moments and think about it. It may be a children's story. It may be a love story. What is it? Why? Take a moment and share with your neighbor what and why.

The Christmas story is not a story primarily about the birth of a baby who would grow up to become a great moral teacher and example, although Jesus did become those things. Rather, it is the profound story of the birth of the Savior.

1. Mary's pregnancy
2. Joseph's discovery of the pregnancy
3. Joseph's dilemma regarding betrothal to Mary.
4. God's intervention to save Mary and Joseph and people.
5. Mission of God's son, Jesus, Mary's baby is the center of the story. Not Mary or Joseph.

### **MARY'S PREGNANCY**

"But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit".

Betrothed, Espoused: there were three steps involved in a Jewish marriage.

1. The engagement: the parents usually determined who a child was to marry—often at a very early age.
2. The betrothal: at a determined time the couple agreed or disagreed with the engagement. The betrothal lasted one year.
3. The marriage: the consummation of the couple took place.

### **JOSEPH'S DISCOVERY OF MARY'S PREGNANCY**

"Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly".

### **JOSEPH'S DILEMMA**

Does Joseph react or respond to this dilemma?

### **GOD INTERVENES**

As Joseph is pondering, God intervenes. "As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- A. GOD GAVE JOSEPH \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. GOD GAVE JOSEPH AND \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. GOD GAVE JOSEPH \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>22</sup>All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

### **MISSION OF GOD'S SON**

Mary and Joseph's child is God's son come to carry out God's mission.

PSALM 130:

<sup>1</sup>From the depths of despair, O lord, I call for your help. <sup>2</sup>Hear my cry, O Lord. Pay attention to my prayer. <sup>3</sup>Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? <sup>4</sup>But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you. <sup>5</sup>I am counting on the lord; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word. <sup>6</sup>I long for the Lord more than sentries long for the dawn, yes, more than sentries long for the dawn. <sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the lord; for with the lord there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows. <sup>8</sup>He himself will redeem Israel from every kind of sin.

### **HOW DID JOSEPH RESPOND TO ALL OF THIS?**

Like Joseph we must decide how to respond to the birth of Jesus.

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM JOSEPH.