

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

“You Shall Call His Name Jesus” Matthew 1:18-25

INTRO:

When we think of an Angelic message of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, we usually think of Gabriel’s announcement to Mary in **Luke 1**. There was another announcement to Joseph in **Matthew 1**. This announcement has two high points. First, we learn Christ came to be the Promised Savior. Second, we see He came to be ***“God with us.”***

I. The Situation (v. 18-19)

II. God Inserts His Word (v. 20-21)

III. Why This Happened (v. 22-25)

I. The Situation (v. 18-19)

Matthew 1:18–19 *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.”*

A. Sometimes, when we do God’s will, we find ourselves in thorny situations. This was true of Mary and Joseph. We know Mary knew about her situation from the angel Gabriel’s announcement in **Luke 1**. Gabriel said,

Luke 1:30–33 *“Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

B. However, Joseph did not hear this divine messenger. We do not know how much Mary told Joseph. It may not have been much. Still, Joseph was a good man and had a relationship with God. Because of his godly nature Joseph sought a solution to the problem which seemed acceptable and would not shame Mary.

II. God Inserts His Word (v. 20-21)

Matthew 1:20–21 *“But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins’”*

A. While Joseph had found what he thought was the best solution, God had a better idea. The Lord interrupted Joseph’s life and sleep with a word from the Creator.

“Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son.’”

I am intrigued that while what happened to Mary is called an Announcement. This is not labeled the announcement to Joseph. In effect, God sends a very similar message to Joseph. First, this is a miracle birth brought about by the Holy Spirit. Second, like in Mary’s announcement, the Angel emphasized Joseph’s lineage from David.

B. Finally, the divine baby is to be named Jesus.

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins”

Neither Joseph or Mary named the boy. God named Him. He was named ***“Yahweh saves.”*** While His eventual reign over all Israel was emphasized to Mary. To Joseph, the angel talked of His being the Savior promised to Israel. ***“For He will save His people from their sins.”*** Who are His people He will save? These are the people from the Jews and the Gentiles whom God will save by grace through faith.

C. Do you remember the first time the LORD showed us a glimpse of His plan for the ages? In the garden He told the serpent,

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Here is the fulfillment of this promise.

III. Why This Happened (v. 22-25)

Matthew 1:22–23 ***“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us’”***

A. The reason God did all this was so the prophecy in the Word of God would be fulfilled. Here is an important point and a very important truth. First the point: God’s Word will never fail. What God said, He will do. God said in **Isaiah 7:14** Christ would be born of a virgin. In fact, He was born of a virgin!

B. Still, Luke’s emphasis is many times missed. The miracle is that Christ is the personification of God with us. This is seen many times in the New Testament. First in **Matthew 28:20**,

“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

A Second promise is found in **Matthew 18:20**.

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

C. Remember the promise of **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Finally, we read from the **Revelation** these words.

Revelation 21:2–4 ***“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is***

with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.””

Do you know this Jesus Who will save His people from their sins? You can know Him. Is this incredible future yours? If you know Him as your Savior and Lord it is coming. What day that will be?

Hymn #237 **We Shall Behold Him**