

God With Us #3
“Joseph – Jesus’ Stepfather”
Matthew 1:18-25

At some point after the angel Gabriel visited Mary, she had to explain this to her husband. After all, Joseph would be Jesus’ stepfather. How will she explain this to him? It’s very unlikely that he would believe her! What is she going to tell her parents? When she starts showing what are people going to think? The obvious conclusion is that Mary has had an affair. This has scandal written all over it. How is Joseph going to believe otherwise? Their marriage is on the rocks and he is going to divorce her. What turns the tide for Joseph is a visitation from an angel to convince him that Mary is telling the truth.

#1. JOSEPH DOESN’T BELIEVE MARY’S STORY, vv. 18-19

- A. Joseph & Mary are betrothed, v. 18
- B. Mary is pregnant outside or wedlock, v. 18 (Luke 1:35)
- C. Mary couldn’t convince Joseph of the truth, v. 19
- D. Joseph feels the sting of betrayal, v. 19

#2. JOSEPH BEGINS DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS, v. 19

- A. Joseph was a righteous man
- B. Joseph will give her a certificate of divorce, Deu 24:1-4
- C. Joseph wanted to protect Mary from disgrace
- D. Joseph didn’t want to sue for the dowry
- E. Joseph knew adultery was punishable by death in the OT

#3. JOSEPH HAS MARY’S STORY VERIFIED BY AN ANGEL, vv. 20-21

- A. He had an angelic appearance in a dream, v. 20
- B. He had Mary’s story confirmed by the angel, vv. 20-21 (cf Luke 1:31 & 35)
- C. He is to take Mary as his wife, v. 20
- D. He will be named Jesus, v. 21 (Gr. *YHWH saves*)
- E. He will save people from their sins, v. 21

#4. JOSEPH IS OFFERED SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT OF THE EVENT, vv. 22-23, Isa 7:14

- A. A partial fulfillment occurred in Ahaz’s day, Isa 7:11-14, 8:3-4
- B. A complete fulfillment occurred with Jesus, v. 22
- C. The Christ event is Immanuel – God with us, v. 23

#5. JOSEPH RESPONDS WITH OBEDIENCE, vv. 24-25

- A. He went ahead with the wedding, v. 24
- B. They exercised self-control, v. 25
- C. They had other children, v. 25

#6. JOSEPH’S SIGNIFICANCE

- A. Joseph is in the genealogy of Christ, Mat 1:1-16, Luke 3:23
 - B. Joseph is identified as the son of David, 1:20
 - C. Joseph will teach him the trade of carpentry
 - D. Joseph is known as the quiet one
 - E. Joseph appears to have died before Jesus’ crucifixion
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Today’s Scripture - Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Isaiah 7:11-16: "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. ¹⁶But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. How do you think Joseph felt when he discovered Mary was pregnant?
 - #2. How could people in the village blame Mary's pregnancy on Joseph?
 - #3. How do you think Mary felt about telling Joseph about her being pregnant by the Holy Spirit?
 - #4. What is the significance of Joseph being a righteous man and divorcing her? (v. 19)
 - #5. Discuss the historical background of Isaiah 7:14 and how Matthew applies it to the Jesus narrative.
 - #6. What is the significance of "God With Us?" (Isa 7:14)
 - #7. What is significant about Joseph being called the son of David?
 - #8. What is your takeaway from this teaching?
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TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS

Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

CCLI Song # 4556538

Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Chorus

Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go

Verse 3

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

CCLI Song # 5607039

Let Us Adore

The heavens declare
The glory of God
And all of the world
Will join the praise
His wonders proclaim

Verse 2

The oceans and skies
Lift up their voice
And all He has made
Will rise to bless
The King of all kings

Chorus 1

Let us adore Him
Let us adore Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord

Verse 3

Eternity's King
Is coming again
Though all of the earth
Will fade away
His truth will remain

Chorus 2

Come and behold Him
Bow down before Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord

Bridge

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
You are worthy of all praise

Ending

Jesus Christ is the Lord

CCLI Song # 4437846

Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

CCLI Song # 3266032

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00PM

Join the Hillcrest family for our virtual candlelight service. We will sing Christmas songs, look into God's word, and end the service by lighting our candles as we sing Silent Night. Be prepared by having a candle with you.

HOLIDAY BREAK

We are taking a holiday break from our Tuesday night Bible study and Wednesday evening prayer meeting. We will resume meeting January 5th at the usual times.

WE ARE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

In improving the quality of the zoom service. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. We have been working very hard to set forth the best quality experience possible for those in zoom land.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online at the church website or mail your check to the church. This is the time to think about making a year-end contribution, which is fully tax deductible, to the following:

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)