

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

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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.

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**#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. <sup>19</sup>Because 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. <sup>20</sup>But 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. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But 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." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then 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? <sup>14</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>15</sup>He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. <sup>16</sup>But 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.

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### 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

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#### 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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)