

**GOD WITH US – PART IV**  
**“Joseph – Jesus’ Stepfather”**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

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Mary has conceived by the Holy Spirit and will have a son. How is she going to explain this to her husband Joseph? The obvious conclusion that Joseph will draw is that Mary has had an affair. This has scandal written all over it. 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 was a righteous man, v. 19
- E. Joseph will give her a certificate of divorce, Deu 24:1-4
- F. Joseph wanted to protect Mary from public disgrace, v. 19

**#2. 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

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

- A. A partial fulfillment in Ahaz's day, Isa 7:11-14, 8:3-4
- B. A complete fulfillment occurred with Jesus, v. 22
- C. Jesus is Immanuel – God with us, v. 23
- D. Jesus is a sign to humanity, v. 23

**#4. JOSEPH RESPONDS WITH OBEDIENCE, vv. 24-25**

- A. Joseph went ahead with the wedding, v. 24
  - B. Joseph & Mary exercised self-control, v. 25
  - C. Joseph & Mary had other children, v. 25
  - D. Joseph is the stepfather not the biological father
  - E. Joseph will teach him carpentry
  - F. Joseph is in the genealogy of Christ, Mat 1:1-16, Luke 3:23
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**NOTES:**

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- #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?

# *Welcome To Hillcrest Church Merry Christmas!*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")."*

*Matthew 1:22-23*

*December 18, 2022  
Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TODAY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

This morning we light the candle which symbolizes joy. Pastor Bruce is continuing his Christmas series "God With Us."

### **THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IS AT 7PM (NO ZOOM)**

This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to hear the Christmas story.

### **NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY**

Since Christmas Eve is Saturday night at 7pm, so there will be no Sunday morning Christmas Day service.

### **THE STAFF OF CIRBY SCHOOL THANKS YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

On behalf of the families who are receiving the gifts, the staff extends their gratitude to us for our generous giving. This will make the Christmas much better for these families.

### **UPDATING OUR DIRECTORY FOR 2023**

We would like to see everyone included in our Hillcrest church directory. Check to see if your contact information is correct. There is a form at the information station in back of the sanctuary that you can fill out.

### **ONLINE GATHERINGS ARE CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.**

We will resume in January. Tuesday Prayer at 7:00pm, Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm. Go to the online meeting room on our website ([hillcrestRoseville.com](http://hillcrestRoseville.com)) to access the gathering.

### **YEAR END GIVING TO THE GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GCF)**

As we come to the end of 2022 we are mindful of the importance of supporting all our missionaries through the GCF. Would you consider a generous year end offering to the GCF. You can designate "GCF" in the memo of your check.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)). Consider giving to the building fund.

### **FEBRUARY 5, 2023 – VISION SERVICE**

We are having a special service that will focus on the vision for the new year. You don't want to miss this!

