

Disciple's Quest

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31



December 12, 2021

Matthew 1:18 – 25

The Virgin Conception and Birth of Jesus

Main Idea:

Eternal God the Son became flesh and came into this fallen world to save us from sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. In accord with God's plan and in fulfillment of the Scriptures, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

Outline:

1) The Marriage

2) The Messenger

3) The Message

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

- #1 What does Joseph's initial determination to put Mary away secretly, instead of shaming her publicly, say about his character?

Is there a relationship between this determination and Scripture's declaration that (even before the angel's visit) he was "a righteous man?"

What testimony does his simple obedience to God's will and calling bear about the strength of his faith?

Do you find it remarkable that even though God's calling was sure to result in immediate hardship, Joseph offered no objections?

- #2 Joseph learned about God's will for his life through an angel, while we have the Scriptures to learn from. Should our response to the will of God revealed in His Word be less convicted than Joseph's?

- #3 Notice in v.v. 20-21 that angel's message is the Gospel. At Christmas, we celebrate the incarnation of God the Son, who entered the world He created to bring us salvation by grace through faith in Him. What distractions and earthy influences can obscure this most wonderful truth?

What commitments can you make now to assure that this Christmas Season is first and foremost one of worship for you personally?

Growing further:

Take the time to read and harmonize the Nativity accounts in Matthew and Luke.

Select helpful resources:

Carson, D.A. *Matthew Vol. 1 (Ch 1 – 12), The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
Toussant, Stanley. *Behold the King – A Study of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980.
Turner, David L. *Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.