



THE GIFT OF PREVAILING PEACE

Matthew 1:18-25

- ❖ Life cannot be PERFECT. But pursuing PEACE with one another when life is challenging is what makes life BEAUTIFUL and SPECIAL.

Matthew 1:18, This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 2:1-2, ¹ . . . rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

Turning Difficult Times into Special Times

- 1) Everyone is imperfect . . . so DON'T DISGRACE people.

Matthew 1:19-21, ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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."

Ephesians 2:4-5, ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- 2) Everyone needs God's help . . . so GRACE people.

Matthew 1:22-23, ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Romans 2:3-4, ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his (God's) kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

- 3) Earthly living has battles . . . so FACE THEM together.

Matthew 1:24-25, ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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Luke 2:8-10, ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Luke 2:13-14, ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

- ❖ Peace – (*Eirene*) - a condition of law and order that results in peace and prosperity

Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?