

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

[Matt 1:18-25](#) | [Matt 2:11-15](#) | [Matt 2:19-23](#)

1: GOD INTERRUPTED JOSEPH'S PLANS SO THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW HIS

Matthew 1:18–25 **ESV**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

A: JOSEPH WAS DOING WHAT HE THOUGHT BEST (HUMAN WISDOM), BUT GOD HAD BETTER FOR HIS LIFE

- ‘being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly’
 - He was going to do the merciful thing.
- But God had a better plan for Joseph—to go ahead and take Mary as his wife—and raise the son to be born as his own.
 - ‘You are to name him Jesus.’
 - This meant for Joseph to claim Jesus as his own and raise him up.
 - This is what makes Jesus of the line of David.

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

B: GOD INTERRUPTED THOSE PLANS IN AN UNMISTAKEABLE WAY

- An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream
 - Supernatural being - angelic messenger
 - God is often depicted as the giver of dreams
- Note: God still speaks (supernaturally) today
 - God still gives dreams
 - God still sends his angels

C: JOSEPH STILL HAD TO:

- BELIEVE
- OBEY

D: JOSEPH WOULD SUFFER SOME HARDSHIPS IN TAKING MARY AS HIS WIFE.

- In claiming Jesus as his own, he would take on the reproach and shame of an ill timed pregnancy.
- He took on shame and cultural woes—he suffered the loss of his reputation.

APPLICATION:

- God knows how to stop you from missing His best.
- God's plans are often beyond our best plans, wisdom, & understanding
- God's plans would cause Joseph to undertake some humility and hardship—suffering.
 - God's plans for us will often require our humility and endurance in hardship.
 - Others won't understand—ridicule
 - Some will slander and gossip

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

God's plans are the best plans!

2: GOD DIRECTED JOSEPH IN SUCH A WAY THAT PRESERVED THEIR LIVES

Matthew 2:11–15 **ESV**

¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

A: HEROD WANTED TO ELIMINATE JESUS

- He was someone who had a hardened heart towards God.
- He wouldn't tolerate any perceived rivals
- He was used by the enemy and represented Satan's continuing attack on God's plan of salvation and God's people.
- REMEMBER:
 - God has a plan for your life
 - Satan wants to destroy it

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

B: GOD PRESERVED JOSEPH AND FAMILY THROUGH THE ENEMY'S ATTACK

- God warned the wise men in a dream NOT to return to Herod
- God warned Joseph by sending an angel to Joseph in a dream
 - Warned him of what was coming
 - Gave him direction of where to go / what to do.

C: GOD SUSTAINED JOSEPH AS HE FOLLOWED HIM

- How would Joseph provide for his family as he flees to Egypt?
- God would provide. God DID provide.
 - God had sent the magi to them.
 - The magi gave gifts... that would provide for their time of sojourning in Egypt.

APPLICATION:

- Where God calls, He will provide!
 - God will not allow the plans of the enemy to thwart His plans.
 - God's people must trust and obey
-

3: GOD CONTINUED TO DIRECT JOSEPH IN EACH SEASON

Matthew 2:19-23 **ESV**

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

OBSERVE:

- **The Lord continues to guide and direct Joseph.**
 - He doesn’t abandon him to figure it out all on his own.
 - Rather, God faithfully guides his people in each season.
- **God graciously worked with Joseph’s discernment**
 - even though he already said ‘those who sought the child’s life are dead.’
 - It seems like as Joseph was doing his best with what he knew to do... God kept nudging him.
 - Helped him understand the times and potential threats
- **Yet again, God warned him in a dream—directing him to Galilee.**
 - Rather than return to Bethlehem or somewhere else in Judea, he withdrew to the northern regions of Galilee, all the way to Nazareth.
 - God got Joseph exactly where he wanted him to go!
- **NOTE: How this fulfilled the prophetic word.**
 - In real time, I wonder if Joseph had any idea this is where he’d end up?
 - Sometimes following God’s plans feel a little circuitous, or like a wild goose chase... but eventually you’ll learn to see God’s hands in it all.

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

- How would the Messiah be born in Bethlehem, yet out of Egypt, but called a Nazarene?

APPLICATION:

- God knows how to get us ALL THE WAY to where He wants us to go
- God will STIR us up — I believe He leads us in peace (so when peace is absent...)
- The Lord will use the means of guiding that is familiar to us
 - BUT He's not limited to that.
 - In fact, He often leads us differently in different seasons.
 - Note the differences:
 - There was no angel in this final guidance.
 - Joseph seemed to have a more rational contribution in his discernment
 - The similarity:
 - God warned him in/through a dream.

RESPONSE:

- God has plans for your life
 - They will require you to believe, trust, and obey.
 - Oftentimes His plans will lead us through hardship—but they are the best plans!
- God will guide us
 - This is supernatural by definition!

DIVINE INTERVENTION / DIVINE GUIDANCE

- God will provide and protect us
 - He will get us to where he wants us to go
 - He will empower us to do what he has called us to do
- We must continue to seek, listen, trust and obey.

“I Give Myself Away”