

— Matthew 1.18-25 —  
Advent 2025, No. 2  
**The Birth of Jesus**

Mat 1<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” <sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

► **Last week**, Matthew left us with two mysteries:

1)

2)

Rev 22<sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, ... am the Root and the Offspring of David”

► **Under OT** law and Hebrew custom, when were wedding vows exchanged, when was the couple considered husband and wife, and how was unfaithfulness considered thereafter?

► **What extra** timing details does Luke give us in his gospel?

► **Under the** circumstances, what was Joseph’s only real choice? And how does Joseph’s decision to divorce Mary quietly show his righteousness?

Mat 22<sup>37</sup> “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Mat 23<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.”

Dan 9<sup>16</sup> “O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away”

Zec 7<sup>9</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.”

► **When the** angel tells Joseph, “Do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife,” what is the full import of those words?

► **When the** angel tells Joseph, “You shall call his name Jesus,” what is the full import of those words?

► **Jesus is** the Greek version of what Hebrew name, and what is its meaning and significance?

► **Why must** Jesus be Immanuel (“God with us”) and born of a virgin?

Isa 7<sup>14</sup> Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel

Heb 2<sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself shared in the same, that through death

He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil

Phil 2<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped [*lit., clutched like treasure*],<sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name [NAS]

Acts 20<sup>35</sup> And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

► **What does** Joseph do when he awakens? (24)

► **What was** Joseph's only real choice regarding Mary's shame, and how was Joseph a picture of Christ?

Isa 53<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

► **How did** Jesus do even more for us?

Jn 1<sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Rom 7<sup>4</sup> [Y]ou ... have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

► **Joseph** "did not know" Mary until she gave birth to Jesus. How is Joseph, once again, a picture of Christ?

Luke 22<sup>42</sup> "[N]ot My will, but Yours, be done."

Mat 20<sup>28</sup> "[T]he Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Gal 5<sup>6</sup> [I]n Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

2Cor 5<sup>7</sup> [W]e walk by faith, not by sight.

Prov 3<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding

► **How has** Joseph been viewed in history, and how *should* he be viewed?

► **Application:** Every Christian man should enroll in the Joseph school of biblical masculinity.