

Matthew 1:18-25, Jesus: Who is He? “The Son of God/Son of Man”

4.26.15

As you are getting settled this morning, prepared to hear the message today...let me remind you that we are a church that delights in the fact that we **all worship together**. You will notice babies and children in the room, along with all of our young adults.

Many churches have chosen to **suck out the children from the service at this point** in the service. After the music, there is a mass exodus for the children to “Children’s Church” and most often in larger churches, the youth aren’t in the service at all. They have their own service with their own room and sometimes even their own building.

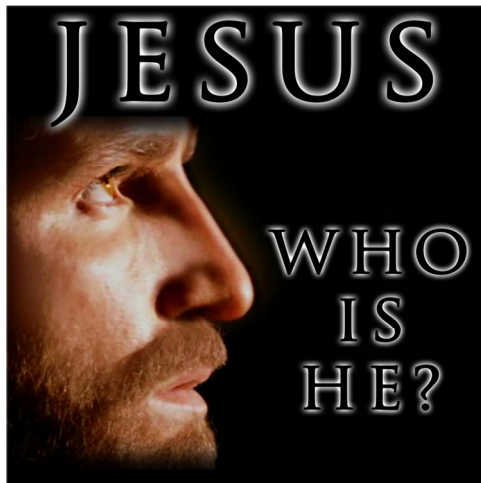
The problem is: we don’t find these models in Scripture. In Scripture you will only find the **ENTIRE BODY worshiping together during the “Gathering” or what is called the Ecclesia**. In the Bible, when the church met together, everyone was in the meeting together...from babies to the old. **Now this isn’t always convenient** for those in the body with children, nor those without children, nonetheless, it is the Scriptural model that all believers came together in one accord.

We do have a side room if you were to need it to have a time for children to be cajoled or settled down, but we encourage you to come right back out and get them used to being in the service and hearing the Word of God preached.

It’s a season of time that passes all too quickly in our lives as our children get older and so we, as a body at MPBC, want to encourage families to worship together as we see taught throughout Scripture.

So as you get settled in today...know that I’m **grateful to have all of the family of MPBC** in the room today, because this **message is really going to be geared to our young people** and children and if they weren’t in the room, they wouldn’t hear this.

Turn in your Bibles to Matthew, chapter 1 and make your way down to verse 18. This morning, we continue in our series: Jesus: Who is He?



Last week we saw Jesus is our Gracious King. We saw a genealogy provided by Matthew that included some of the most messed up people you could ever imagine. We saw lying, incest, prostitution, adultery and murder... And yet, Jesus, because He is the friend of sinners and our

“Gracious King,” would come via a messed up family tree to set the captive free. Hallelujah!

Today we are going to see two more attributes of Jesus. We are going to see Him as “The Son of God, born as the “Son of Man,” but born, not via a man...but through a miraculous conception of a virgin girl named Mary. Today we look at “**Jesus: The Son of God/Son of Man.**”

It is almost without question that Joseph and Mary were teenagers. Bible scholars are almost in unanimous agreement on this. That being the case, they would have looked much like this couple:



Here’s a close up picture of the young lady, who portrayed Mary in this particular movie...



The reason I show you these pictures is so that you and I will have a proper understanding of who the earthly father, Joseph and His mother, Mary really were. They were teenagers and we’ll see as we go through today’s message some very important principles that are modeled for our teenagers and young adults by this young couple: Joseph and Mary.

Look with me at verse 18.

Matthew 1:18

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.

Folks, verse 18 is a miracle. Can you see that? Matthew records that Mary was “found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.” Now if you ask me to explain how that happened, I’ll tell you I can’t, because you can’t explain miracles. That’s the very definition of a miracle...it’s unexplainable. Here is the dictionary definition of miracle:

Miracle: An extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause.

The virgin birth is a miracle from God and it's essential that we, as believers and followers of Christ, see it that way. Because if we don't, then you can throw all of the other miracles about Jesus and all the miracles performed by Jesus down the drain. You can forget Him turning water into wine, walking on water, raising the dead and even the resurrection of Jesus Himself. If you can't accept the virgin birth, then you will never be able to accept any other miracle of the Scriptures.

Turn in your Bibles to Philippians 2 for a moment. Listen, Jesus had to be born of a virgin because He is 100% God and 100% man. You see, that's another miracle...it's something else that we can't explain. Paul said in Philippians 2, verse 6:

Philippians 2:6-7

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

We need to understand this about Jesus. In order for Him to be able to pay for our sins, He had to become one of us. But, if He were born of an earthly father, then He would have been born into sin. Yet, He wasn't born of an earthly father, Jesus Christ is in fact...God in the second person of the trinity of God (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit), who came from heaven to earth "in the likeness of men" to pay for our sin. I want you to see this...look down in verse 8?

Philippians 2:8

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus was 100% God, yet 100% man. It's a miracle that had to happen so that our sin could be forgiven by a sinless human, who happened to be God who took on flesh. Go back to Matthew 1 and look with me at verses 22 and 23 and we'll see this.

Matthew 1:22-23

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).

You see, 750 years before Jesus was even born, the prophet Isaiah foretold (prophesied) that all of this would happen. Isaiah is who Matthew is quoting from in verse 23 (see the quotation marks). That's a direction quotation from Isaiah 7:14. The son will be called, "Immanuel, which means, God with us."

Jesus is God...and He came to this earth to set right what was destroyed in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve blew it in their sin. God said, "I'll fix it. I'll send myself in the person of Jesus, born as a baby by a virgin." And He did. And it's a miracle! Can you accept the fact that there are some things that you and I simply can't explain and be okay with it? I hope so, because that's called "faith" and "without faith it is impossible to please God."

Look back at verse 18 again. See where it says, “his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph?” Let’s look at these two people for a moment. The earthly father and mother of Jesus... Let’s begin with Mary. This is where I can use another picture of an actress who played Mary...



Doesn't she look so young? Well, she was young! Mary would have been a teenager, according to scholars, about 14-16 years old. Can you imagine a 14-16 year old lady being chosen by God to give birth to Jesus? What kind of young lady was Mary?

Turn to Luke chapter 1. Obviously Mary had to be a very special, godly, young woman. After all, she was going to be the mother of Jesus. She had to be filled with faith and trust in God. And we know that is true, because Luke records that she was. Luke records how the angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that she has been chosen to give birth to the Messiah. But, Mary says...

Luke 1:34-38

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Verse 38 is what I wanted you to see. Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be according to your word.” She trusted the word of the Lord through the angel. Do you see her faith? Do you see her submission to God? Do you see her courage?

You ask, “What courage?” Folks, she’s going to start showing in a few weeks and she’s not yet married. Look back at verse 18 again...

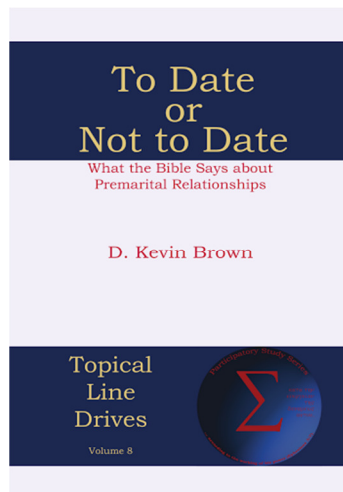
Matthew 1:18

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.

Did you notice that word, “betrothed?” It’s not a word we use much today, but it means to be “espoused” or “pledged” to someone via a binding contract. A young man and a young woman would make a binding agreement to pledge themselves to one another and that pledge was so binding that it could only be broken by a certificate of divorce. However, under the betrothal, you

were not officially married until you consummated the relationship by being physically intimate with one another.

By the way... I wrote an entire section about this in my book on Dating...



To be betrothed is not like our “casual dating” and “easily broken engagements” of today. Today, we basically “practicing divorce.” The average couple today will marry with between 5-8 partners prior to the marriage. This is unheard of in Scripture. Dating (as we know it today) does not exist in the Bible. Dating today is something that came about with the drive-ins of the 1950’s and exploded in the 1960’s with the “sexual revolution.” We are paying the consequences for these “turnstile” relationships that change every 6-9 months.

Yes, as a society we have been practicing divorce for the last 60 years and because of it, we’ve the nuclear family in America pay a heavy price because (as Solomon says), we are “awakening love too soon.” Today, our society is so messed up sexually that we won’t trust the authority of God’s word in black and white...nope...instead, we’ll settle for just “50 Shades of Grey.” God help us!

Again, I want to encourage you to get a copy of my book...particularly if there are young families here today with children under the age of 10. Just take a copy (on me) and read it. It’s 35 pages long and it will take you an hour to read it and it describes what the Bible teaches about relationships and marriage.

Why do I encourage you to do so? Because I want your children to know what it’s like to strive for the best and be willing to trust God to bring that young man or young woman into their life. He doesn’t need any help and He knows exactly who that ONE person is that He has specifically designed for you.

As one of your Elders/Shepherds, I don’t want you to have the emotional baggage most of us have and **I want you to know that you can trust God,** just like Mary did to have the courage to face the ridicule of her day and do it God’s way.

You see Mary had tremendous courage. First off, she was a virgin and had never even been touched by another man, and yet she was soon going to be showing...and secondly, because it

would soon become evident that she was pregnant, she would face the penalty death according to the Mosaic Law (Deut. 24:1-4 you could be stoned to death).

Listen, it takes great courage to follow the Lord in any culture at any time. If you follow Jesus, you will be ridiculed and persecuted and that's why many, many of our teenagers and young adults fall away in their teens. Yes, they may have made a profession of faith when they were a child, but until they are pressed and put under persecution and potential ridicule...we'll not know if they are the real thing or not until their teen years (in most cases).

By the way, speaking of courage. I'm going to have courage and go against the culture as we talk about marriage today by telling you unequivocally and without question the Bible teaches that marriage is to be between ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN for life. Period. And that's not taking a swipe at homosexual marriage, in fact that's saying that all of this swapping off dating and all the divorce in our society over the last 60 years breaks the heart of our Holy Father.

But I will say something about gay marriage at this point, because I must. The idea of so-called Gay Marriage is permeating our culture today and the Supreme Court is taking it up this week.

Folks, I'll tell you. I'm perplexed... For whatever reason there are many out there today (including some Christians) who believe that we are now so smart that we know better than God and His word on the subject of marriage. But, I want to remind us all... God's doesn't change with the times or the culture and His Word doesn't change with the times and culture. He is the same yesterday, today and forever and He said marriage is to be between one man and one woman and that's why He created it.

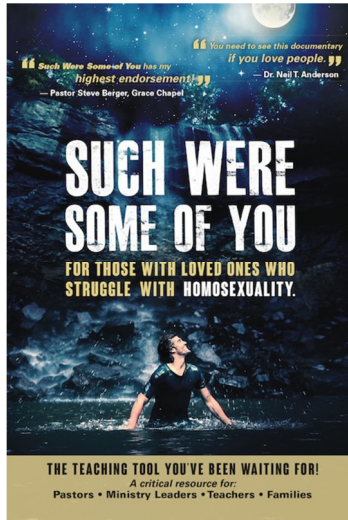
You see Jesus answered the critics of His day when He was talking to a bunch of Pharisees...

Matthew 19:4-6

4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Listen, marriage was God's idea and His plan to populate the earth and the only way you can be fruitful and multiply is through a man and a woman. It doesn't work with two men or two women. It goes against the created order and the divine design of God.

In fact, Wed. night we are going to look in detail at this new wave of thinking out there that erroneously says that people are born gay. We are going to view this video on Wed. night, because I want you to know the truth...



It's a video about the power of God's grace to overcome the sin of the homosexual lifestyle. It's 45 minutes long and it's rated PG, simply because of the subject matter...but it's not over the top and it handles the subject thoughtfully and carefully. BUT, if you have not discussed the topic with your children, then you probably would want them to go to Awanas that night if you normally have them with you.

I want us to see this video because we will see the power of Jesus (the miraculous power) in 29 people's lives who were delivered from the homosexual lifestyle. It's powerful!

Folks, I want you to know something. It takes courage for your Elders to even tackle this subject and show this video, but Pastor Brad and Pastor Dale and I are united in this. It takes courage to stand for the Lord. And we see that with Joseph as well.

Matthew 1:19-20

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.

We see here that Joseph (as a teenager) showed tremendous courage on two fronts. The angel said, "Don't fear to take Mary as your wife..." Fear whom? MAN!

What everyone else would say? Everybody would assume that he had gotten her pregnant. And now he's willing to endure the ridicule, just like Mary was enduring by those who were likely calling her an adulteress.

Oh young people...if you have this kind of courage today to do the right thing no matter what anyone says, you will be ridiculed and it will take courage...but you can do it as you surrender and trust more in what God thinks of you than man thinks of you.

Joseph showed courage in another way...

Matthew 1:24-25

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.

Do you see the obedience...the purity, and the righteousness of Joseph and Mary? "He knew her not..." They remained sexually pure. They didn't compromise. But, folks we give our kids over to these casual relationships at such young ages now that we stack the deck against our kids and we don't even mean to.

We don't tell them to go for gold...we just tell them be home by midnight. And we wonder why all the promiscuity and lack of virginity in our culture.

Oh how we have lost the understanding of purity in our culture. We have all these casual relationships, no-fault divorces and now so-called gay marriage. Church family, do you know what God wants for us? Holiness... Look on the screens at 1 Thess. 4:3.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.

Ephesians 5:3

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

As we begin to close today...can I ask a question and I'll ask it not only to our young people, but to each of us in this room. If God were looking for another Joseph and another Mary in 2015, would He choose you? Would He choose me? If not, why not? Could it be that we have allowed the culture and the "fear of man" to dictate and rule our hearts? Parents. Afraid to explain co-workers and family why our children or going for the gold medal and saving themselves. Could it be that we need to repent of our sin today?

Did you notice I skipped verse 21? Let's finish here.

Matthew 1:21

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

That's another miracle. What is? The miracle of salvation... Another miracle that can only come about by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will save his people from their sins.

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Jesus was none other than God in human flesh and He came to this earth through a courageous, committed, pure, virgin teenager named Mary, who was betrothed to a courageous, righteous, merciful, teenager named Joseph.

Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Man, came to dwell with the demon possessed, to liberate them,

with the poor in spirit to bless them, with the lepers, to cleanse them, with the diseased, to cure them, with the hungry, to feed them, with the handicapped, to restore them, but most of all, he came to dwell with the lost, so that He might save them...so that we could call God our Abba, Father too! Hallelujah!