

MEANT TO BE TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS
Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-55

INTRODUCTION: The Christmas season is the busiest time of the year as thousands of people celebrate a holiday without thinking of it as a holy day. The real meaning of Christmas has become lost in the midst of unnecessary spending, stressful celebrations, and a friendliness that only lasts for a couple of weeks each year. Those of us who really understand what Christmas is about will treasure relationships while we have the limited opportunity to do so. Do you ever stop to think about the sovereign actions of God that brought you into His family for an eternal relationship?

BACKGROUND: Mary and Joseph were godly people yet ordinary people like most believers. They chose to be in a relationship with one another, only to find out later that the Lord had chosen them to be in their relationship to bring Him glory.

I. GOD BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR HIGHER PURPOSES THAN WE REALIZE. (Matthew 1:18)

- A. God's promise of a Savior for the world had to come through the family line of King David. Joseph and Mary were both in that line. (2nd Samuel 7:12-13)
- B. The same God who brought Adam and Eve together drew Joseph and Mary together so their firstborn son could reunite two lines of heirs to the throne. Their son will reign forever!

II. GOD'S PLAN FOR US MAY GO AGAINST ALL WE HAD PLANNED FOR OURSELVES. TRUST HIM EVEN WHEN IT MAKES NO SENSE TO YOU. (Matthew 1:18-25)

- A. Joseph had reasons to be angry and devastated. His knowledge of the Word of God, coupled with his faith and character, allowed him to respond properly. (Isaiah 7:14)
- B. A promise that had taken about 700 years to be fulfilled was worked out through two ordinary people who had no idea the Lord would use them in mighty ways. Do you want to be used by the Lord?
- C. Notice that Joseph was a man who allowed his actions to speak louder than his words. We have no record of anything he said, yet we will never forget all that he did to protect his wife and the holy child he was responsible for. (Matthew 1:18-2:23)
- D. Mary would have her reputation ruined for decades, and her life plans changed forever by God's intrusion into her life. She bowed to His will and praised Him, just as we should always do. His plans for us are always better than our own plans. (Luke 1:46-55)

III. WHEN GOD BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE DIFFICULTIES AND JOYS WITHOUT DESTROYING THEIR RELATIONSHIP. (Mathew 2:13-23)

- A. Joseph obeyed the Lord and provided care for his family. Mary followed his lead. God was glorified and they were satisfied.
- B. When believers are brought together in a local church family and recognize that God brought them together for reasons they may not yet see, they should choose to work together and obey the Lord as they discover His purpose together.
- C. The journey of life is enriched when you walk with others who do not trust their logic or own solutions, but have learned to obey the Lord no matter what.

MANY PEOPLE ARE NOT SURE WHO THEY WERE MEANT TO BE, OR WHO THEY WERE MEANT TO BE WITH. REST ASSURED THAT YOU WERE MEANT TO BE WITH JESUS. HE IS THE PERFECT GIFT. TRUST HIS CHOICE AND PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.
(Isaiah 9:1-2)*

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