

**Making Tough Decisions**  
**The Stories of Christmas – Part 2**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

**When faced with a difficult choice...**

**1. Remember that who you are will determine what you do**

*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. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man... (18-19)*

**2. Treat others the way you want to be treated**

*Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. (19)*

**3. Think deeply about what to do**

*But while he thought about these things... (20)*

**4. Wait for God to bring some clarity**

*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. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”*

**5. Once God gives you clarity, act decisively**

*Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus. (24-25)*