

Digging Deeper by Robert Lee  
Sermon Series: *Messy Christmas - Joseph*  
Scripture Lesson: *Matthew 1:18-25*

**Monday** – Read Matthew 1:18-19 and pray for Spiritual Understanding. Imagine for a moment the thoughts that must have penetrated Joseph’s mind when he learned that his fiancée was conceived without consummation. Because Joseph was law-abiding and respectful, he was not willing to expose Mary to public shame. So, he decided to divorce her and send her away quietly.

**Tuesday** – Read Matthew 1:20-21 and pray for Spiritual Assurance. An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream to interrupt his plans to divorce virgin Mary. During his dream, Joseph was instructed to take Mary home as his wife, for she would give birth to Jesus who will save his people from their sins.

**Wednesday** – Read Matthew 1:22 and pray for Spiritual Knowledge. Who is the prophet that is referenced in this verse? It is Isaiah who is one of the major prophets of the Old Testament.

**Thursday** – Read Matthew 1:23 and pray for Spiritual Fulfillment. Verse 23 is a quote from Isaiah 7:14, which is the first of ten quotes from the Old Testament that appears in the Gospel according to Matthew to illustrate that Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy.

**Friday** – Read Matthew 1:24 and pray for Spiritual Obedience. Joseph and the virgin Mary were betrothed at the time that Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Betrothal is a promise that a marriage will take place and was a formal part of the marriage process for Mary and Joseph. In the ancient Jewish culture, the betrothal period was the first of two steps to marriage, which typically lasted a year.

**Saturday** – Read Matthew 1:25 and pray for Spiritual Endurance. Joseph responded to the message he received in that dream with obedience to God and with respect for the virgin Mary. As a result, Joseph’s life was blessed by God and prophecy of the coming Savior was fulfilled.