



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **The Carpenter: The Story You Didn't Plan**
Series: **Storyteller**
Text: **Matthew 1:18-25**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **December 7, 2025**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about; (Mt 1:18).

1. WHEN THE STORY _____ BEFORE IT BEGINS

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: **His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph**, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. (Mt. 1:18)*

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. (Mt 1:19).

Joseph was a . . .

- A _____ Man - "faithful to the law"
- _____ - "unwilling to shame her"

Matthew Hints by saying "**she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit**"

Mary, a young Jewish virgin, was discovered to be pregnant during her engagement to Joseph, which was due to her submission to the Holy Spirit. This pregnancy was understood as a **demonstration of the Spirit's creative power** - the ability to **generate something out of very little or nothing**, essentially showing God at work, similar to the creation narrative in Genesis.

Joseph is about to learn you cannot understand God's Story without God's voice.

2. WHEN GOD SPEAKS INTO OUR _____

*But after **he had considered this**, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife**, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20–21).*

- God _____ Joseph. "After he has **CONSIDERED** this"

Human Reasoning outside of Divine Revelation

- God speaks through a _____. “he Lord **appeared to him in a dream**”

Christians must exercise caution regarding dreams.

- God _____. - “***Do not be afraid*** to take Mary home as your wife”

Fear is almost always the first response when God changes our story.

- God’s _____. - “what is **conceived in her** is from the Holy Spirit.”
- God tells Joseph to _____ his SON. - “**you are to give him the name Jesus**”

3. WHEN GOD REVEALS THE GREATER _____

All this took place **to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet**: 23 “**The virgin** will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**” (which means “**God with us**”). (Mt 1:22–23).

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin** will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Is 7:14).

God is with us - not in judgement, but in _____.

4. WHEN OBEDIENCE _____ YOUR STORY

When Joseph woke up, **he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him** and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And **he gave him the name Jesus**. (Mt 1:24–25).

Joseph _____ without excuse, delay, or bargaining.

HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN YOUR STORY DOESN’T GO AS PLANNED?

- _____ **GOD EVEN WHEN YOU DON’T SEE OR UNDERSTAND.**
- _____ **YOUR PLANS TO GOD’S GREATER PLAN.**
- _____ **THAT GOD IS WITH YOU!**
- _____ **HOW GOD USES YOUR OBEDIENCE.**