



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **SOLVING A DILEMMA BY FAITH**
Series: The Christmas Experiment
Text: Matthew 1:18-25
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **December 3, 2023**

*And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love.** But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13*

1. IDENTIFY YOUR _____

*This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was **pledged to be married** to Joseph, but **before they came together,** she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was **a righteous man** and did not want **to expose her to public disgrace,** he had **in mind to divorce her quietly.** (Matt. 1:18-19 NIV)*

2. _____ GOD'S ANSWER DILIGENTLY

***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. Matt. 1:20*

*The **plans of the diligent lead to profit** as surely as haste leads to poverty. Prov. 21:5*

3. CHECK YOUR _____ AND FOCUS ON THE CONSEQUENCES

*"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for **the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.** If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. 1Chr. 28:9*

4. _____ FOR GOD'S REVELATION

*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.**" Matt. 1:20*

*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." Matt. 1:21*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "**The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel**" – which means, "God with us." Matt. 1:22-23*

5. _____ IN OBEDIENCE

*When Joseph woke up, **he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him** and took Mary home as his wife. Matt. 1:24*

*But **he had no union with her** until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matt. 1:25*

THE GREATEST DILEMMA

*You know the story of **how Adam landed us in the dilemma** we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. Rom. 5:12 (Mes)*

*With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, **that fateful dilemma is resolved.** Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. Rom. 8:1 (Mes)*