

# Matthew 1:18-25

## “The King is Born”

### 2016 vision: “Jesus is our King!”

become a community of followers of Jesus Christ, yielded to his Lordship in every realm of life: personal, marriage, family, career, calling, community

[readingplan.calvarynexus.org](http://readingplan.calvarynexus.org)

#JesusIsOurKing

[JesusIsOurKing@calvarynexus.org](mailto:JesusIsOurKing@calvarynexus.org)

Pastor Robb Oram  
Mobil Ave. Campus

Imagine Joseph discovering that his fiancée Mary was pregnant, and he knows that he is not the father. Have you ever felt that your faith was tested or struggled in your faith because of circumstances? How can God’s word strengthened your faith? How have you sensed God’s presence through His word, prayer, worship or other experiences? How was your faith strengthened? Join us as we discover the triumph of faith.

#### Discussion Qs

1. Have you ever felt that your faith was tested or struggled in your faith because of circumstances?
2. How has God’s word strengthened your faith?
3. How have you sensed God’s presence through His word, prayer, worship or other experiences? How was your faith strengthened?
4. Describe a time where your faith was being tested and your faith triumphed such that you trusted and obeyed God despite the circumstances.

subject: the birth of Jesus & testing of Joseph’s faith

objective: experience the blessings of faith in Jesus

I. our faith in Jesus will be tested (vv. 18-19)

A. we need to expect & be prepared for testing

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that

perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

B. the Lord tests our faith to help it grow

II. our faith in Jesus is well-founded (vv. 20-23)

discussion question: What has the Lord provided to strengthen our faith?

A. Jesus will never let us down

“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.” (2 Tim. 1:12)

B. develop faith now so it’s strong when it’s tested

III. our faith in Jesus will be blessed (vv. 24-25)

A. true faith is proven through obedience (James 2:26)

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
And whose hope is the Lord.” (Jer. 17:7)

Pastor Bruce Zachary  
Lewis Rd. Campus

intro.

**Subject: The Birth of Jesus (and the testing of Joseph’s faith)**

**Object: Experience the triumph of faith**

**A. The testing of faith [18-19]**

**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*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.**

**1. Mary’s condition [18]** was @ 16 years old. [Probably sister of Salome, so James/ John were Jesus’ cousins] **Betrothed [18]** is more than engagement. Lasted @ 1 yr. And requires a divorce to dissolve. Infidelity during betrothal was adultery. **before came together:** before

sexual relations. **Child of the Holy Spirit:** spiritual (Immaculate Conception) no physical intercourse.

**2. Joseph's condition [19]** assumes Mary is pregnant by another. **put away secretly:** since betrothed requires divorce [Dt.22:23-24; Dt.244] shame of adultery & stoning penalty. **Just:** compassion, mercy, moral.

a. Imagine Joseph's struggle to believe Mary: confused, devastated, angry, problem sleeping —> prayer.

i. *Have you ever felt that your faith was tested or struggled in your faith because of circumstances?*

## **B. The training of faith [20-23]**

### **1. God's messengers [20]**

**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.**

a. **Angel [20]:** God's messenger, emphasized divine leading and supernatural event

**a. God's messengers (e.g. angels, pastors) encourage us to understand the reliability of the supernatural**

i. Angel exhorts Joseph to stop being afraid to take Mary as his wife

ii. **son of David:** remind Joseph of his royal pedigree, and heritage of faith

### **2. God's message and predictive prophecy [21-23]**

**a. Fulfilled predictive prophecy encourages faith [21]**

**21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**

**Son:** gender known to God. So if the child was a girl, the message was not of God

**Jesus** Yahweh is Salvation

**He will save His people from their sins:** Hebrew "He" is emphatic [i.e. He and no other]. The doesn't save us but reveals God's standard of righteousness and our need for a Savior [Cf. Moses (law) vs. Joshua (grace) and Promised Land]

i. 1/3 of the Bible is predictive prophecy, and 2/3 of it has been fulfilled re 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of Christ. SO we can have confidence re remaining prophecies re 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus.2. ii. *How has God's word strengthened your faith?*

**b. God's message will be consistent with the Scriptures [22-23]** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

**23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”**

i. The prophet Isaiah foretold the sign of the virgin birth 700 years before [Is. 7:14]

ii. Heb. “Alma” can be translated “young maiden” or “virgin”

cf. Septuagint = 70 Jewish scholars @ 200 B.C., Parthenos = virgin

**3. God’s presence [23] Immanuel, which is translated, “God with us.”**

Immanuel is a title, like “Christ” not Jesus’ proper name

**a. The presence of God is our great blessing and encouragement of faith**

i. **God with us** relates to His presence or nearness [cf. God is omnipresent]

ii. God’s unhindered presence is what makes heaven “heavenly”

**Ex. 33:15, Jn. 1:1,14, Matt. 28:20,**

**b. The Incarnation makes God’s presence more tangible**

i. As the disciples walked with Jesus their strength was strengthened

*c. How have you sensed God’s presence through His word, prayer, worship or other experiences? How was your faith strengthened?*

**C. The triumph of faith [24-25]**

**Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.**

**1. Joseph believed and obeyed God [24-25]**

a. 8 days after birth, @ circumcision, confirmed name Jesus [**Lu. 2:21**]

*i. Consider a time where your faith was being tested and your faith triumphed such that you trusted and obeyed God despite the circumstances.*

b. **did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son:** Joseph and Mary were sexually intimate after the birth of Jesus.

i. Cf. Roman Catholic Church re perpetual virgin

ii. See also, James & Jude

iii. Catholic Church puts too much emphasis on Mary and the Protestant Church may not adequately acknowledge the role of Joseph and Mary

**\*\* Baptism at Lewis:** public declaration of faith and desire to obey and follow Jesus