

Christmas Is ALL About JESUS

Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas celebrates God's ability to... 1. Involve people in His plan 2. Do the impossible: Jesus' birth
3. Change people's lives

Matt. 1:18f Christmas story from Joseph's, Jesus' step-dad perspective, 2 major sections

Life's Heartbreaks: life is not easy: disappointments, frustrations, failures **1:18-19**

18a 1. **Joseph's PLAN:** Joseph betrothed (engaged) to marry Mary, Planning a good life!

*Betrothed: Parents arrange marriage, often 1 year before marriage is consummated.

1 Cor. 10:31 *Lord must be at the center of our plans: His glory! Plans often too small*

James 4:14 *Lord must be in control of our plans: subject to change: If Lord wills...*

18b 2. **UNBELIEVABLE NEWS:** Mary returned from 3 month visit with relatives=pregnant!

*Joseph didn't believe Mary's story that she was pregnant by the power of God!

He couldn't see past the facts! Joseph may not have sought God about this!

*Mary struggled: her worst nightmare was coming true: Joseph didn't believe her!

She knew she was pregnant by God's power, but she couldn't convince Joseph!

Her future was in doubt—what would happen to her? What would she do?

**Failure to seek & submit to God's will can cause much pain/hurt/sleeplessness!*

19 3. **UNBEARABLE DECISION:** Joseph knew Mary should be stoned death by Law **Deut.22:23f**

*Joseph's plan do 'right' & kind thing: Quietly divorce Mary (**Matt. 5:31, 19:7**)

When you go through life's heartbreaks & pain: Apply these truths! Rom. 8

18 1. **God's best is NOT here and now, but there and then! God allows pain!**

23f 2. **God uses pain: to focus your hope/passion on Him & His glory**

26f 3. **God uses pain: to teach you to pray in the Spirit, seek Him and His will**

28f 4. **God is in control: He uses everything for His glory & your best**

35f 5. **God loves you: His love for you is unstoppable, unending, undoable**

Lord's Handiwork: Jesus seeks to reveal His will to you: His great plan for you! **1:20-25**

20a 1. **Jesus' PLAN:** God spoke to Joseph in a dream:

1) 'son of David'= Joseph's lineage=your plan is too small, see God's dream!

2) Don't fear: easy to make bad decisions out of fear *Fear others' think & failure

*Why did God tell Joseph after Mary told Joseph & not before? Test Joseph!

**God's delays test us to see if we seek Him first!*

20b- 2. **BELIEVABLE NEWS:** Mary told you truth: she is pregnant by God's power: Spirit

***Virgin Birth:** 1) Promised: **Is. 7:14**, 2) Performed: **Jn.1:1,14** Eternal Word 'enfleshed'

3) Explained: **Phil. 2:5f** God's Son took on human form to die for sinners!

***Jesus**=Jehovah's Salvation *Not Joseph, because Joseph not Jesus' father: step-dad!

*Jesus' birth fulfilled prophecy: 1)Time: **Dan. 9:25** 2) Place: **Mic. 5:2** 3) Gift: **Ps.72:10**

Have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Let Jesus be born in you?

1. **We are all sinners and spiritual dead to God. 2. You cannot pay for your sin.**

3. **Jesus Christ died for sinners to make you alive to God & to forgive all your sins.**

4. **Repent of your sins & trust Jesus alone that He died for you & rose again.**

24f 3. **BEARABLE DECISION:** Though obedience can be hard, Saving faith enables us to obey!

*How did Joseph feel after dream? Jerk, Happy, Unsettled, Reluctant,

*How did Mary feel when Joseph told her? relieved, confirmed, vindicated

1. **IMMEDIATE Obedience:** when he awoke—not change his mind! Ridiculed, rejected

2. **COMPLETE Obedience:** he took Mary as wife (brought her in his home, -sex)

Christmas is about Jesus—His coming into world! Jesus Christ desires to...

1. **Use/involve you in His plan:** Seeking Jesus' plan?

2. **Do impossible in/through you:** Trusting Jesus?

3. **Change you** Submitting to Jesus?

CHRISTMAS READING... THE BIBLE STORY IN WORDS...

God... Eternity... Kingdom...

**Word, Light, Heavens, Earth, Sun, LIFE,
Man, Rib, Woman, Completion, Unity, Intimacy**

Serpent...

**Dialogue, Desire, Deception, Decision,
DEATH**

**Naked, Guilt, Shame, Hiding, Questioned,
Confession, Curse, Promise, Pain, Sweat, Dust, DEATH
Children, Murder, Punishment, DEATH**

Ark, Flood, DEATH, Promise, Rainbow

Tower, Pride, Confusion, Languages, DEATH

**Go, Faith, Obey, Blessing, Promise,
Go, Faith, Son, Sacrifice, Lamb, DEATH**

**Egypt, Slavery, Baby, Dessert, Bush, Plagues, Freedom, JOY
Nation, Law, Sin, Sacrifices, Blood, Unbelief, Wanderings, DEATH
Land, Judges, Prophets, Kings, Temple, Divided, Captivity, DEATH**

Silence...

**Angel, Mary, Joseph, Baby, Jesus, Shepherds, Kings, Gifts,
Danger, Egypt, Temple, Ready, Baptism**

Serpent...

**Dialogue, Scripture, Dialogue, Scripture, Dialogue, Scripture, Victory...
LIFE, JOY**

**Teaching, Healing, Loving, Serving, Caring, Giving...
LIFE, JOY**

Hated, Arrested, Tried, Scourged, Condemned, Crucified, DEATH

**Resurrection, Victory, Redemption, LIFE, JOY
Ascended, Spirit, Anointed, Empowered, LIFE, JOY
Kingdom, Witness, Evangelism, LIFE, JOY
Church, Hated, Infiltrated, Martyred, LIFE, JOY
Return, Awe, Judgment, Death, LIFE, JOY**

Kingdom... Eternity... God