

— Matthew 1.18-23 —
2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec 9, 2018

The Birth of Jesus

Mat 1.18 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. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 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. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 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," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

* **Last** week, Matthew left us sitting on the edge of our seats, puzzling over two mysteries: (1) How has Jesus accomplished what neither _____, nor _____, nor any of their sons has been able to accomplish over the centuries? (2) How can Jesus be both the _____ and _____ of David?

Isa 11.1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots ... 10 And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who will stand as a banner to the people ...

Rev 22.16 "I, Jesus, ... am the Root and the Offspring of David"

* **How** did engagement and marriage take place under the OT law and Hebrew custom?

* **What** kinds of thoughts would have been going through Joseph's mind when he learned Mary was pregnant?

* **What** consequences could result from adultery under God's law and under the Roman regime?

* **Did** Joseph really have a choice about divorcing Mary?

* **What** was Joseph's only real choice?

* **Was** Joseph ignoring God's law by declining to charge Mary publicly? Was Jesus ignoring God's law by declining to condemn the woman caught in adultery in John 8?

* **How** does God in the OT show the importance of a righteous judicial system and of due process under the law?

* **Joseph's** decision toward Mary showed righteousness mixed with _____. How does God show the same?

Dan 9.16 "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away"

Zech 7.9 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother."

Mat 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith."

* **What** is the angel telling Joseph to do toward Mary? (vs 20)

* **What** does Joseph do when he awakes? (vs 24) Why is important for Joseph to act quickly?

* **What** is the significance of Joseph naming the child? (vs 21)

* **It's** not really a matter of avoiding shame, but rather who will _____? Joseph ends Mary's guilt and shame in others' eyes by _____.

* **Jesus** is the Greek version of the Hebrew name _____, and it means "_____."

Isa 53.4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;

* **One** of the main reason people reject the incarnation is, Why would God _____?

* **How** did Jesus do so much more than this with his bride?

* **How** does naming the Messiah Jesus help overcome that stumbling block?

* **Joseph** "did not know" Mary until she gave birth to Jesus.
– What does this show us about Joseph?

* **Joshua** was Moses' _____, and he was like a resurrected _____.

– What was his fundamental disposition of heart? (Lk 22.42)

* **If** Messiah will be named Jesus, what does it mean that he will be called Immanuel?

– What was Joseph's goal? (Mat 20.28)

* **How** has Joseph often been viewed?

Isaiah 9.6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given ... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

* **All** Christian men should enroll in the Joseph school of biblical _____.