

— Matthew 1.18-23 —
2nd Sunday of Advent
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 with two mysteries:

1) How can it be that Jesus has accomplished what neither _____ nor _____ nor any of their sons has been able to accomplish over the centuries?

2) How can Jesus be the _____ & _____ of David?

In answer, Matthew says in so many words, You have to understand how Jesus came to be _____.

Isa 9.6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder, And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom

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"

► Under the OT law and Hebrew custom, marriage vows were exchanged at the _____ ceremony in front of witnesses. The couple was _____ for all intents and purposes, except for coming together and consummating the marriage, which would occur at the wedding _____ usually about a year later. Unfaithfulness after the betrothal was considered _____. Ending a betrothal required _____.

► What extra details regarding the timing of these events does Luke give us in his gospel?

► Did Joseph really have any choice but to divorce Mary? His only real choice was _____ the divorce was to be carried out.

► How does Joseph's decision to divorce Mary quietly show his righteousness? (19) 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."

► In vs 20, what the angel tells Joseph to do is to embrace Mary _____.

► The angel tells *Joseph* to _____ the child? (21) Why?

► **Jesus** is Greek for the Hebrew name _____, which means "_____."

► What distinguished the famous Joshua of the OT? How will Jesus be the Greater Joshua?

► Why must Jesus be Immanuel, “God with us,” born of a virgin?

Isa 7.14 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ... 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. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace, There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom

► The name Jesus tells us that Jehovah not only saves, but that He _____ salvation. He does not save us in spite of being God, but _____ He is God. Salvation is _____ He is.

Phil 2⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped [lit., clutched like treasure], ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name [NAS]

Acts 20³⁵ And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

► What does Joseph do when he awakens? (24)

► What was Joseph’s choice regarding Mary’s shame? How was he a picture of Christ?

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

► How did Jesus do even more for us?

Jn 1¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

► Joseph “did not know” Mary until she gave birth to Jesus. What does this tell us about Joseph, his disposition of heart, and his purpose?

Luke 22.42 “[N]ot My will, but Yours, be done.”

Mat 20.28 “[T]he Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

► How has Joseph been viewed in history? How should he be viewed?