



Matthew 1:18-25 | SCRIPTURE
Bryson Still | SPEAKER
The Father of Choice | SERMON

Matt. 1:18-25 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately. When he had contemplated 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 as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will name him Emmanuel," which means "God with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, But did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus."

Joseph's Dilemma - The Challenge to Rise above Adversity

Joseph's Crisis reveals a lot about His Character. His responses were OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

An Unexpected Development — Pregnancy before betrothal is a serious offense. Joseph's reaction reveals a man under control! He contemplates his choice (v.20)

An Uncharacteristic Deliberation — Joseph was a righteous man and intended to keep things private to protect Mary.

Matt. 1:19 — "Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately."

An Uncommon Decision — Joseph had the right to invoke the death penalty by public stoning. He chose compassion and spared her of the shame.

Every Man has a dilemma that is challenging his character!

CHRIST ENTRUSTS FATHERS WITH SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND UNFAVORABLE DECISIONS, AND IT IS THEIR GREATEST HONOR TO DO THIS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE!

What is your dilemma? What kind of Character is being revealed in you?

Joseph's Dream - God-Revealed Truths

Matt. 1:20 — "When he had contemplated 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 as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Matt. 1:21 — "She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matt. 1:22 — "This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Matt. 1:23 — "Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will name him Emmanuel," which means "God with us."

NOTES



Two Answered Questions:

1. WHOSE Child is this?
2. WHO is this Child?

Joseph realized his call was two be a steward of God's Child.

Responsible fatherhood happens when you realize you are stewarding someone as special as God's child.

Your children have a destiny before God, and it is your responsibility to call it forth!

Are you calling forth greatness?

Joseph's Decisions - Being the Example

Matt. 1:24 — *"When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife,*

Matt. 1:25 — *"but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus."*

Obedient to the Lord

John 14:15 - *"If you love me, you will obey my commandments"*

1 Sam. 15:22. *"...Certainly, obedience is better than sacrifice..."*

Delayed Gratification

Matt. 1:25 — *"but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus."*

Exercise of Faith and Courage

Matt. 1:20 — *"When he had contemplated 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 as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."*

Matt. 1:21 — *"She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Matt. 1:22 — *"This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled:*

Matt. 1:23 — *"Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will name him Emmanuel," which means "God with us."*

- Joseph knew the prophecies that the angel was speaking about and it gave him faith to trust God in difficult times.
- FAITH and the WORD ARE CONNECTED

A Man of Worship

Luke 2:41 — *"Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival."*

Luke 2:42 — *"When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual."*

- Joseph regularly set an example for his family.