

# **A Savior is Born**

Matthew 1:18-25

## Christmas in June?

- Do you remember Christmas as a child?
- Remember the JC Penny or Sears catalogs?

## Favorite gifts?

- Do you remember your favorite gifts?
- Did you always get what you wanted?
- Did you sometimes get things you needed that you were less excited about?

## The Reason for the Season (Even in June)

- Celebrating the birth of the savior.
- Almost certainly not the actual day of Jesus' birth.
- Actual day possibly in spring or fall.

# Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

# Joseph

- Matthew is continuing to use the theme from the genealogy of Jesus by viewing Jesus' birth story from the viewpoint of Joseph.
- Continuing to show Jesus' legitimacy and royal lineage.
- Joseph was going to divorce Mary
  - <sup>1</sup> “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house

Deuteronomy 24:1 ESV

# Joseph's Faithfulness

- Joseph wanted to divorce her quietly.
- Chose not to shame her.
- Listened to the Angel of the Lord.
- Chose to be obedient.

# Joseph's example

- Despite feeling wronged, still treated Mary with kindness.
  - Could have humiliated her and shamed her.
- Likewise, we too can treat others with kindness when they wrong us.
  - Don't blast them on social media
  - Don't gossip to others
- Today's society does not align with God's Word with this topic.

# Biblical Examples

## Matthew 18:15

- <sup>15</sup> “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

## Romans 14:19

- <sup>19</sup> “So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”

# Joseph's Example, cont.

- Joseph was faithful.
- Could have walked away from God and Mary.
- **CHOSE** to stay by Mary's side, care for, protect, love, bring up Jesus.

# Love, Obedience, Sacrifice

- More than just Christmas and Easter.
- Only called to serve two days of the year?
- NO, seek and serve daily!
  - “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” 1 Peter 4:10
- Celebrate Jesus daily!

Need a little Jesus in your life?

# Need Jesus, or Want Jesus?

- Like those Christmas gifts we mentioned earlier.
- We do need Jesus
  - Salvation
  - Propitiation for Sin
  - High Priest
  - Mediator
- He gave the best gift of all time.

# Need Jesus, or Want Jesus

- I want to be more excited about the gift of Jesus than the best Christmas gift.
- Want Jesus to come into our lives.
  - Change us
  - Mold us
  - Use us
- Be **EXCITED** about it
  - So excited we want to share Jesus with **EVERYONE**

Do YOU need Jesus or Want Jesus?