



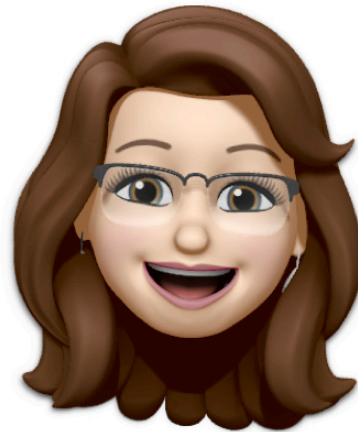
welcome to sierra community church

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

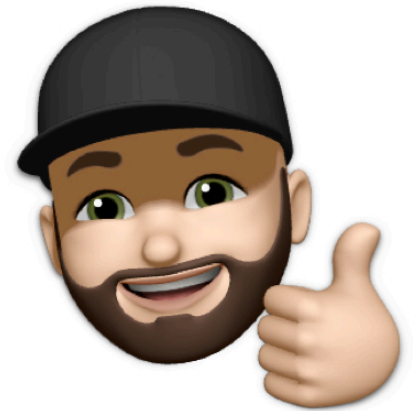
..with



HILARY



LORI



CORBETT

Joseph's Dilemma

Matthew's Christmas Story- Part 2 Matt. 1:18-25
Noah Largent 12/6/20

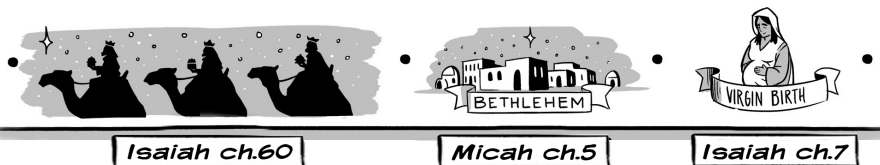


Matthew 1:18-25 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. ²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) which is translated "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her ²⁵ but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

1. Why a virgin birth?

Matthew assumes his audience believed that God's power is limitless and can be mysterious. This miracle enables us to see why Jesus could be both full human and fully God. Only God could see, understand and do the things that Jesus did. As a human he experienced temptation, suffering & was able to die.

FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC PROMISES



2. What does Joseph have to teach us?

Joseph is faced with a real social and religious dilemma. Obedience is not always easy, but it's **ALAWYS** for our good and honors God by putting Him in the proper place in our life.

3. Why come as a baby?

God has always been committed to working through the human family. The Christmas story is a demonstration of God's determination to keep his promise and finish his project! This is of one reason his followers lives are marked by a settled peace, knowing that God is loves them and is committed to them and to to restoring all things!



Community Group Questions:

1. What do you think? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. What modern day dilemmas do we face when we obey God instead of following the current cultural flow?
3. Is anyone you'll be talking with this Christmas who needs to see or hear the good news through you? Pray for them now.
4. What can you put into practice from what you've learned today?

Notes:

Matthew's
CHRISTMAS
STORY



Matthew 1:18-25

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Why a Virgin Birth?

FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC PROMISES



Isaiah ch.60



Micah ch.5



Isaiah ch.7

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Pew Research Center



Pew Research Center




Declining majorities believe in virgin birth, other elements of Christmas story

% who believe ...

	Jesus was born to a virgin		Angel announced birth of Jesus to shepherds		Wise men, guided by star, brought Jesus gifts		Jesus was laid in manger	
	2014 %	2017 %	2014 %	2017 %	2014 %	2017 %	2014 %	2017 %
Total	73	66	74	67	75	68	81	75
Christian	91	85	90	86	88	84	92	89
Protestant	91	87	90	88	89	87	92	90
White evangelical	96	95	97	97	96	95	95	98
White mainline	83	71	80	77	81	74	87	81
Black Protestant	n/a	96	n/a	91	n/a	90	n/a	88
Catholic	86	83	90	82	84	80	92	87
Unaffiliated	30	17	31	20	41	28	53	41
<i>Attend religious services ...</i>								
Weekly or more	92	92	93	92	91	91	93	92
Monthly/yearly	81	70	80	71	78	70	84	79
Seldom/never	42	37	46	38	53	43	64	56
<i>Ages</i>								
18-29	70	54	69	52	74	54	80	64
30-49	72	64	73	66	74	68	80	76





**What can we learn
from Joseph?**

What can we learn from Joseph?

Joseph is faced with challenging social dilemma. In order to maintain his social standing he must reject Mary and she will suffer disgrace. But if maintains the relationship with Mary people will assume that he is guiltily and he will suffer disgrace.





Tim Keller

Tim Keller: "Matthew's Messiah", Dec.7, 2014

Christmas really challenges the lie that is one of our main working assumption, the operating principle, of your heart and my heart. It says, *“you lose all control of your life and come under Jesus’ authority, and that’s good news”*. That is exactly the opposite of what most people have believed, especially today.

A photograph of Tim Keller, a man with glasses and a grey jacket, sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a path lined with trees.

Tim Keller

What can we learn from Joseph?

Joseph is faced with a real social and religious dilemma. Obedience is not always easy, but it's ALWAYS for our good and honors God by putting Him in the proper place in our life.

A large, stylized number '3' in a dark blue color, positioned on the left side of the slide. It has a thick, rounded font style.

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