

When God's Choice Hurts

Matthew 1: 18-25

8 December 2019 A.M.

Series: Christmas 2020

Matthew 1: 18-21

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1: 22 - 25

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary as his wife*, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

God's Choice Creates Predicaments Vv. 18-19.

- Matthew is not fabricating a story.
- The truth is supported by the character of the couple.
- The problem, Mary is pregnant with someone else's baby.
- Joseph is a righteous man in a predicament.

Predicaments Necessitates Clarification Vv. 20-21.

- An unnamed angel clarifies Joseph's calling in a dream.
 - Joseph identified.
 - Joseph given a command.
- The child of Mary is identified.
 - Conceived of the Holy Spirit.
 - A son with a powerful name.

Clarification is Grounded in Scripture Vv. 22-23.

- Scripture supports the angels proclamation.
 - Isaiah 7: 14.
 - Jesus fulfilled prophecy as Messiah the suffering servant.
- Scripture must support and clarify our “callings.”

God's Choice Must End in Obedience Vv. 24-25.

- Joseph can be identified with the Patriarch.
- We know nothing of Joseph's reaction except that he immediately obeyed.
- Mary remained a virgin until she gave birth.

Conclusion

- Despite the appearance of things, Joseph obeyed, doing exactly what God said.
- You can chose today to obey God no matter what the predicament you face.