**Matthew 1:18-25 December 20, 2020**

**Simply Christmas**

Mary the Mother of Jesus Matthew 1:18-19

* Was betrothed to Joseph
  + More than our fiancé relationship of today
  + Were considered legally married
  + Could only be separated **by divorce**
* She was pure sexually / she was a virgin
  + “before they came together”
  + She became pregnant by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit
  + This is an extraordinary event!
* Jesus came to the world as God and became man in His conception / **incarnation**
  + He was and is the one and only God-man
  + He is fully God and fully man
  + He alone could penalty for our sins (v. 21)

Joseph the Adoptive Father of Jesus

* “Righteous man”
  + Matthew is not signaling that Joseph was **sinless** but rather, like Job, was a man dedicated to loving, serving, and worshipping the Lord
  + His intention was toward obedience of the Lord and following His commands
* “planned to send her away secretly”
  + Joseph’s desire was not to bring public humiliation to Mary but instead to dissolve the marriage through a written note of divorce according to the law of Deuteronomy 24:1, and documented by two witnesses

The Angel’s Message to Joseph Matthew 1:20-21

* He is a “son of David”
  + Fulfilling God’s **covenant** with David
  + 2 Samuel 7:12–13, “12 “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”
* Mary’s Son is through the power of the Holy Spirit
  + She has been faithful to you
  + The child is given to the world to save them from their sins

Fulfillment of Prophecy Matthew 1:22-23

* The angel tells Joseph that Mary’s Son is the long awaited fulfillment of God’s prophecy through Isaiah
  + Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”
* “God with us”
  + God became man in the incarnation
  + Only God’s own Son would be **sufficient** to save people from their sins
  + Jesus was never referred to as “Immanuel,” though He did have many other names and titles

Joseph’s Obedience Matthew 1:24-25

* He listened to what the angel had to say, even though he could not have fully understand the meaning
* He enabled Mary to be a virgin until Jesus’ birth
  + There could be no confusion of His origin

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