

**"The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ"**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**Introduction:** For the next several weeks we are going to step away from our study in Revelation as we will be considering the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The passage which is before us this morning is one of great importance. Let me explain why that is.

There have been many attacks against the resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as many attacks against the teaching of Jesus Christ. Ultimately Satan launched an attack against Jesus Christ long before He was born and that attack has been going on since sin entered into the world. But one of the most severe attacks against Jesus Christ is against His virgin birth.

I have talked to people over the years that claim to be "Christians" but they refuse to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. I have had people try to tell me that the word "virgin" in the account of Jesus Christ refers to a "young maid".

Now let me take a moment and explain to you how important the Doctrine of the virgin birth really is. If Jesus was not born of a virgin then we are all wasting our time by being here today. You see if Jesus had an earthly father then He does not qualify to be the Savior of the world. Let me explain. We are all born into sin and so we are all sinners.

**Romans 5:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

**Romans 5:19a**

*<sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners...*

Sin entered into the world through Adam and so we are all born into sin. Now the sin nature which we are born with is passed to us through the seed of our father. The sin nature came through the seed of Adam and after Adam it is passed down to all men through the seed of the MAN.

So if Jesus had an earthly father then that would mean that He also was born with a sin nature and therefore He would not qualify to be the SINLESS SACRIFICE which God required to pay the penalty for the all mankind.

**Exodus 12:1-5**

*And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,*

<sup>2</sup> *This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

<sup>3</sup> *Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:*

<sup>4</sup> *And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.*

<sup>5</sup> ***Your lamb shall be without blemish**, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:*

Throughout the Bible we read that the sacrifices were to be without blemish which is a picture of the sinless perfection which God required for payment for sin.

So if Jesus had an earthly father then He was not sinless and we are doomed for we would have no hope. Let us now look at how Matthew countered every attack against the virgin birth in the passage before us.

I. **The Discovery**

Now before we step into this passage let me give you the setting here in Matthew. In chapter 1:1-17 Matthew traced the lineage of Jesus Christ to show to his readers who Jesus was HUMANLY speaking that **He is the Son of David**. That qualified Him to be the King.

Now as we step into the verses before us Matthew will show who Jesus is from the DIVINE stand point that **He is the Son of God**.

**Notice Matthew 1:18**

Mary and Joseph were in the engagement period and it was then that Mary was found to be pregnant BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER. Matthew makes it very clear that Mary was not pregnant with Joseph's child but she was pregnant of the Holy Spirit.

This engagement period was just as binding as the marriage in those days. There would be a contract drawn up by both families or between a man and a woman before the marriage and it was a written promise of marriage. If either violated the promises in that marriage

vow then they had to be divorced. You see in this engagement period they were considered to be legally married with the exception of the sexual relations. So when we read that Mary was espoused to Joseph we know that they were in a binding marriage contract.

Now the information which we find here in this verse was shocking news to Joseph but Mary had already been informed about what God was doing. We read of that in Luke.

**Luke 1:26-35**

<sup>26</sup> *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,*

<sup>27</sup> ***To a virgin espoused** to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

<sup>28</sup> *And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

<sup>29</sup> *And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*

<sup>30</sup> *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.*

<sup>31</sup> *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

<sup>32</sup> *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

<sup>33</sup> *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

<sup>34</sup> *Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*

<sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

Let me show you Mary's response.

**Luke 1:38**

<sup>38</sup> *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

Can you imagine how Mary was viewed? When she was asked she could have told people the Baby was God's child and we can just imagine how she would have been mocked. **She**

**would have had no way to defend herself so Matthew and Luke both come to her defense.** Many of Jesus' day never grasp onto the Truth that He was virgin born.

**John 8:18-19, 40-41**

*<sup>18</sup> I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

*<sup>19</sup> Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

*<sup>40</sup> But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.*

*<sup>41</sup> Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*

If they held it against Jesus you can imagine what they thought of Mary.

Back to Joseph, he has not received this information from the angel and so in his mind Mary has been unfaithful.

**Notice Matthew 1:19**

Joseph was a "just" man which means he was a RIGHTEOUS man. Joseph could have responded out of vengeance but that is not the character of a righteous man. Let me remind you that at this time Joseph was under the Law and let me show you what the Law said about the woman who was unfaithful.

**Deuteronomy 22:13-14, 20-21**

*<sup>13</sup> If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her,*

*<sup>14</sup> And give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid:*

*<sup>20</sup> But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel:*

*<sup>21</sup> Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.*

Joseph desired to secretly put Mary away which would have been to give her a written bill of divorce. He did not wish to shame her. He loved Mary and it was his desire to quietly put her away and move on with his life.

II. The Revelation

**Notice Matthew 1:20-21**

Joseph did not act quickly but instead he thought on about what he was about to do.

**Application:**

What an example to you and me when it comes to responding to troubling situations. Joseph would take his time when deciding what needed to be done and it was in the time he was thinking that he received this revelation from the angel.

**Proverbs 25:8**

*<sup>8</sup> Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.*

When I read these verses I can see that Joseph was not told by Mary of her pregnancy for she would have explained what she knew. Therefore the news of Mary's pregnancy circulated around the town of Nazareth.

Joseph was told to take Mary to be his wife for she had not been unfaithful but the Baby was the Son of God who would save His people from their sins.

**Application:**

I want to point out here that it would have been very trying for Joseph to take Mary to be his wife because of what others would have thought. There were very few who would believe their story about how the Baby was the Son of God. Many would have despised them because of her pregnancy. But it was God's will for Joseph to endure the ridicule and the judgment of the people around him.

Let me just remind us that there are going to be times when we walk in the will of God and there will be people who do not understand and they will be very critical of the path we are walking. This should be of no surprise to us when we are called to walk a path contrary to what the world understands.

**Luke 23:8-11**

*<sup>8</sup> And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.*

<sup>9</sup> Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

<sup>10</sup> And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

<sup>11</sup> And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

Jesus was mocked by Herod and Pilate and His accusers. If it happened to our Lord we can be sure it will happen to us as we walk in the will of God.

**Notice Matthew 1:21 again.**

The Baby's name would be Jesus for He would save His people from their sins. This was God's answer to our greatest need. We are sinners unable to save ourselves. So God became a Man to pay the penalty for our sins.

Remember that I told you that sin came into the world by one man?

**Romans 5:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

<sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

### III. The Confirmation

**Notice Matthew 1:22-23**

These are the words of Matthew here and not the angel. Matthew understood the virgin birth was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus was never called by the name "Immanuel" because this Title does not refer to a name but to Who Jesus was. He was God and God became a man so that we could have a Savior.

For people to deny the virgin birth is to deny the account of Matthew and beyond that it is to deny the Word of God.

### IV. The Obedience

**Notice Matthew 1:24-25**

Mary accepted the path God had appointed to her and Joseph did the same. There were no questions nor was there any hesitation. Mary and Joseph were both righteous people and so they completely accepted what God had for them. The path was not easy and there

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would be many who would mock them. But they would allow *God* to deal with those who were critical. What a blessing they would receive as they walked this path.

They would see the wise man from the east that had followed the star.

They would see the protection and the provisions of *God* as they escaped from Herod.

They would hear the words of Simeon and Anna as they spoke in Luke 2.

**Conclusion:**

We also have a mission very similar to *Mary* and *Joseph*. It is our responsibility to carry *Jesus* into the world and introduce the world to Him. We can also expect mocking, judgment, and ridicule.

We can also expect great blessings. We will see people's lives changed. We will see the hand of *God* open and close doors. We will see the protection of *God* as we walk through a hostile world and the list goes on and on.