

MATTHEW

June 20, 2021

Matthew 1:18-25

READ

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The Gospel of Matthew presents the birth of Jesus from the vantage point of Joseph. The Gospel of Luke presents His birth from the vantage point of Mary.

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Be prepared to discuss what is behind the concept of betrothal. Consult a commentary or study Bible. (How was it like marriage? How was it different than marriage?)

2. What two realities seem to be in conflict in the betrothal of Joseph & Mary (v. 18b)?

How would this impact Joseph? (What is he feeling? What is going through his mind?)

3. What is the defining characteristic of Joseph (v. 19a)? What does this mean (and not mean)?

How will this affect his handling of the situation?

4. Identify the two responses determined by Joseph (v. 19b). What will this mean for him? What will this mean for Mary?

5. God intervenes through an angel. What state of mind does the angel first address and why (v. 20)?

What is Joseph directed to do and why?

What is the reason, or Who is responsible, for Mary's condition?

6. What is significant about the *name* to be given to Mary's baby (v. 21)?
7. What is the corroboration of Mary's explanation for her situation (c.f., v. 18b) and Joseph's dream concerning the situation (vv. 22-23)?

How important is this prophecy (to the couple and to the reader)?

8. Reflect on the relationship of the name "Jesus" to the name "Immanuel." (Take into account the meaning of the names.)
9. What are Joseph's three responses to the angel's commands (vv. 24-25)? What is significant about each response?
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)

PERSONAL RESPONSE

I will face my fears this week by . . .

I will manage my emotions this week by . . .

I will move forward in faith this week by . . .