

## The Good News of Christmas

*Matthew 1:18-25*

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### I. Immaculate Conception. *Matthew 1:18*

Betrothal was official and binding; similar to a marriage \_\_\_\_\_ but had a much deeper importance than our modern-day practice.

- Everyone would expect Joseph to give Mary a letter of divorce, not for irreconcilable differences, but for supposed \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 8:41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of \_\_\_\_\_; we have one Father, God."*

### II. Joseph was a "just" man. *Matthew 1:19*

As we read this verse, we start to see the sincere \_\_\_\_\_ and faith of Joseph by his immediate response.

- "Just" in Greek refers to a sincere righteousness in the sight of God; a righteousness that only comes from \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. Faith is placing your trust in God which then causes \_\_\_\_\_!

### III. A change of plans. *Matthew 1:20-21*

We do not know whether Mary tried to \_\_\_\_\_ to Joseph that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, but if she had, Joseph did not immediately believe her but the angel's visit convinced him.

- The baby's mission statement and life purpose were clear; "**For He will \_\_\_\_\_ His people from their sins**".

### IV. Fulfillment of prophecy. *Matthew 1:22-25*

*Galatians 3:6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was \_\_\_\_\_ to him for righteousness." NKJV*

- One of the greatest sources of true \_\_\_\_\_ is a determination to defend what is right and what is true.

### V. Practical Application.

Through his courageous obedience and faith in God, a supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ surrounded Joseph's life even during turmoil.

1. We see Joseph answering \_\_\_\_\_ for his life. Life's greatest adventure begins when we are \_\_\_\_\_ Christ!
2. We need to hear from the Lord. *John 10:27*
3. Stay away from worldly \_\_\_\_\_. *2 Timothy 2:3-4*
4. Learn to trust the Lord. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Isaiah 26:3 You (God) will keep him in perfect \_\_\_\_\_; Whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. NKJV*

### Small Group Discussion

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?*

1. Discuss the similarities of the Church being betrothed to the Lord and the betrothal of Joseph and Mary. *Ephesians 5:31-32, Matthew 25:1-13, Genesis 24, Revelation 20:4*
2. Joseph had good reason to worry about his relationship with Mary. Once the angel shows up, he tells Joseph to "**Fear not**". *What's an area of life that you'd like to experience more peace and freedom and less worry?*
3. *What made Joseph righteous in the sight of the Lord?* *Romans 9:30-32, Romans 2:26, Hebrews 11:4, Jeremiah 23:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:21*
4. Using lessons from this narrative, discuss the ways we can experience "**Perfect peace**" when we are going through trials. *Isaiah 26:3, Proverbs 3:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, Hebrews 1:1, John 10:27*
5. *Why must we be diligent to hear the Lord when it comes to making plans for our life?* *Matthew 1:20-21, Proverbs 15:22, Isaiah 30:1, Jeremiah 18:12-17*
6. Discuss the Practical Application of this sermon.