
**Series: Christmas—It's All in How You Look at It
Believing When You Can't Believe It (Joseph's View)**

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

1. ONLY TREMENDOUS BELIEF KEPT JOSEPH WITH MARY.

V. 19 "Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."

- Joseph drew a natural conclusion about Mary's condition.
- Joseph wanted to do what was right.
- Joseph extended grace to the mother of Grace.

2. GOD USED AN ANGEL TO REVEAL HIS PLANS FOR JOSEPH AND MARY.

V. 20a "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream..."

- Joseph chose to listen to God rather than his anger.
- His circumstances could only make sense because he understood the Scriptures.

V. 22 "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'--which means, 'God with us.'"

- Once we hear from God, we can believe the impossible.

3. JOSEPH DEMONSTRATED HIS BELIEF WITH ACTION.

- Without questioning God, Joseph immediately obeyed.

V. 24 "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife."

- Joseph understood the bigger picture and did not demand his "rights."

V. 25 "But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

Why is this important?

1. It did not place additional pressure on Mary.
2. It models the importance of controlling our urges rather than letting our urges control us.
3. It left no doubt about the virgin birth to come.

Looking at the birth of Jesus from Joseph's eyes gives us insight into the power of believing God and having enough faith to join Him in what he is doing in our world.