

**Saturday, September 2, 2023 • Read Matthew 1:18–25**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What does v18 tell us the Holy Spirit is about to describe? What was Mary's relationship to Joseph already? But what had they not yet done? In what condition was she found anyway? How had this happened? What does v19 call Joseph? What sort of man was he? What did he not want to do? What did he will to do instead? What was Joseph doing in v20? Who appeared to him? How? What did the angel call him? What did he tell him not to do? What did this imply that he must do? Why wouldn't he fear—from Whom has the baby come? What will she bring forth (v21)? What is he to call His Name? Why, what will He do? What explanation does v22 give for all of this? What had the prophet said (v23, cf. Isa 7:14)—who would be with child? What would she bear? What would they call Him? How is it translated? How does the vision affect Joseph (v24)? What does he do? What doesn't he do (v25)? Until when? What does he call the Son's Name?*

**Who is the Christ-King?** Matthew 1:18–24 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these seven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the Christ-King is God Himself, Who came to save His people from their sins.

**A just man**, v19–20a. Here we have something that Luke emphasizes more than Matthew: the godliness of Jesus's earthly parents. Joseph is Jesus's adoptive human father, being the "husband of Mary" as v16 said. But it is vitally important that he be a "just man" (v19a). Indeed, he must be both just and holy, for much will depend upon him in Jesus's earthly life. As Jesus grows in wisdom and stature, he will at first be entirely dependent upon His parents that the law would be carefully kept concerning Him. It is worth noting how such a just man conducts himself. He honors his betrothed, even when she seems to have dishonored him (v19b). He doesn't act rationally but ponders things carefully (v20a).

**Conceived by the Holy Spirit**, v18, 20b–21. Joseph and Mary had not come together, but she was found to be with child. This is first stated to the reader in v18. But when the angel tells Joseph in v20, he makes it clear that Mary did not do this. The Holy Spirit did this within her. The angel's message tells us, in two parts, why the Holy Spirit has done this. First, he calls Joseph "Son of David," plainly implying that this baby is to be the Christ. The most immediate father listed in the genealogy in v16 was Jacob, not David. This is a messianic title. Second, the angel tells that this new Son of David must be named Jesus. The Christ is "Yahweh Who saves." He could not have sin of His own, so He could not have an earthly father as His federal progenitor before God.

**God with us**, v22–24. The angel insists on the Name Jesus, and Joseph gives Him the Name Jesus. So it may strike us odd that the Spirit tells us that this is to fulfill a prophecy that his Name would be Immanuel. Obviously, the two must hold together. What we see here is the Spirit indicating to us that the two are the same Name.

When the angel tells Joseph, "He will save His people from their sins," He is referring to something greater than just that Jesus will be the great King and promised Deliverer. The angel is identifying Jesus as the One Who says, "I will be your God, and you will be My people." He is a deliverer not merely from Philistines, Assyrians, and Babylonians. He is a deliverer from Satan and from sin itself. He can only be God.

The conception by the Holy Spirit, the Name Jesus, the mission of salvation from sin... ALL this was done (v22a) to fulfill that God alone saves and not man. This was what Ahaz refused to trust in. YHWH Himself was the stone of stumbling and rock of offense (cf. Isa 8:14–15). And the virgin birth, being fulfilled against Ahaz over 700 years later, was a sign against his insistence on trusting in men. But no mere man can save. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us to save us. Jesus is the stone of stumbling and rock of offense, YHWH Himself as the alone Savior.

Jesus.

How can you be saved from sin? How have you responded to the only One Who can save you? Why did He have to be God in order to save? How/why is the phrase "His people" precious to you?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for coming, Yourself, to be our Savior in the Person of the Son. Grant that we would not stumble over You or be offended at You, but to humbly embrace that no other Savior could ever do. Make us to rejoice that You have saved us, for we ask it through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH24B "The Earth and Its Riches"**

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Matthew 1 verses 18 through 25. These are God's words. Now, the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows after his mother, Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her husband being a just man. And not wanting to make her a public example with minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you. Marry your wife for that, which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a son and you shall call his name, Jesus.

For, he will save his people. From their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord, through the prophet saying behold. The virgin shall be with child. And vera sun. And they shall call his name Emmanuel. Which is translated God with us.

Then Joseph being aroused from sleep. Did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. And took. To him his wife. And did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn son. And he called his name. Jesus. So far the reading of God's inspired and And there's worked.

And the Lord is still introducing to us. The Spirit is still introducing to us. The King. Who is the subject of the gospel of Matthew? Jesus comes announcing the kingdom. Jesus brings in the kingdom, Jesus. Declares at the end of the book that he has all authority in heaven and on earth, which is to say he is the King and the kingdom has come, it has yet to come in its fullness.

Um, but the book of Matthew is not about the kingdom as much as it is about the King. Because as we heard last week, it is. The book of what came. Jesus Christ. Who is therefore the true Adam. And the true David, and the true Abraham, as we saw Inverse 1.

And so, it's introducing the King to us, still an introduces, the King to us, By way of his birth. And as we hear about his birth, we hear first of all, about the justice, the right justice of his father. This is actually, Very important and it's the Subject of verse 19 and the first part of verse 20, Then Joseph, her husband being a just man.

It's important that Jesus. Have a just man for a father, why? Because he's going to come as a baby. And there are a lot of things that have to be done with him. That in order to follow the law of God. That. Have to be done for him. Yes, he has a sinless heart.

He has already in his heart. Love for God awareness that That the world is not about himself, it's the Very different baby. Than any baby that has ever been born. If he cries, he cries only his communication. And and never in. Uh, bitterness or wrath or any of the things that we are told to put off in order that we may put on Christ.

But he's a baby. There are many things. That have to be done for him. If Jesus does not have a Godly father. Then the law will not be kept. Concerning him. And so the

first thing that God does to us is that the spirit does for us in this passage as he introduces us.

To Joseph, he's a righteous man. He's adjustment. And, What does this mean? Well, it means That even though, He thinks. That his wife has been unfaithful. To him. He is not thinking. Of himself in. A revenging way. He is not. In his indignation wanting to make an example of her.

In his righteousness, in his justness. He does not want to make her republic example. He wants to guard as much as he can. Her from her consequences. He wants her. Um, Sure he wants for her to be. Recovered from her scent. But he wants to spare her. Whatever. He can't.

There is a justness, a Love for others, they consideration of others ahead of south A non-vincible. Spirit. That belongs to the just mass the righteousness. Of the father that the living god chose for his son. And we can see, Not just that he is. Um, Right. And just and fair.

Towards her. But that he is self-controlled in his thoughts. We're giving university while e. Thought about these things. He's careful. He considers. He's not a hasty, man. He wants to do things. In a right way, with right reason, right timing. What's the practice wisdom? And so we see the kind of, man.

That the lord picks for.

For jesus's father. Of course, luke gives us a window. Into the kind of woman that he picks. For her mother. But here's a man who His father is a man to him the care of jesus can be entrusted as he grows. And wisdom and stature, you will be entirely dependent.

Upon his parents.

The lord willing one day. You will have children. The medic. I At the pool yesterday. It didn't ask me about my children, he asked me about my grandchildren. And i said, I haven't met any of them yet. But i certainly hope to When the lord gives children to godly parents, It is with the purpose that they should have the upbringing that he has assigned to them.

It is because he has consecrated them to himself already. An infant dedication is redundant. God dedicated that baby to himself. But giving it giving that child to christian parents, So that while the child grows and wisdom and stature, God's word maybe kept concerning them.

And so, we hope that one day you will be parents. And that you will take that seriously and see what a great honor. Is a great honor, isn't to Joseph that he would get The adoptive earthly father of the lord jesus christ. And we see the sort of adoptive earthly, father, God gave.

To his only begotten son. But it also, Was a gift to the lord jesus by his heavenly father. That he gave him such an adoptive earthly, father.

Well, we see that. His father then. Was adjust, man. But his father was not a sinless man.

But his father was not a sinless man. And this is why the lord jesus had to be conceived by the holy spirit. We're told that in verse 18, just doesn't know it yet. And she was found with child. Of the holy spirit. And so Joseph, as he is, Uh, being patient and not rash pondering and considering Something we also see as mother doing in the gospel of luke, especially And something else you jesus's mother doing also.

But this pondering Gives the time for the lord to give him. Information that he needs. When the information that you needs comes in the form, Of an angel in a dream. And these will the lord appears to him in a dream saying Joseph, son of david. It's a very important title, isn't it?

He is reminding Joseph that. Or maybe informing Joseph already even before he hears. Uh, about christ's being conceived. By the holy spirit. In the In mary in his fiance, his betrothed. Not just fiance. The angel uses the words, son of david, and let's Joseph know that what's happening. That is kingdom business.

Uh, now i don't think any of us are some of david But, When you're a christian and when you even talked to use the word saint of yourself and your children. You know, that what's going on with you and your family is kingdom business. Christ is building his church, And it doesn't just build his church.

When he adds someone from outside, He builds his church.

He builds this church. When he adds. To a christian household, those whom we trust that he has done. So with the intention of bringing them to faith, And we trust him for that and so already. Uh, you can hear and righteous Joseph self-reflective, Joseph Um, Wondering what's going on already?

And he knows his bible and he loves the lord. And then an angel appears to him. This is very unusual, of course. And what the angel says is joseph's, son of david. And so, he's He's being told already. God is about to act. On a promise, made back in seconds annual seven a promise.

That has been expanded in isaiah 6 and 9 and 11 psalm 72 and psalm 2 psalm 110. So many other passages and In the latter profits and the psalms All of the, all of that. That we saw last week when we were thinking about the son of david, Now the lord is is coming by this angel, i'm telling Joseph.

Hold on. Yes, it's a godly thing to to love the lord and love Mary and not wants to put her. To example, but there is a greater service to God. That has now been assigned to you. The promises. Concerning the son of David are about to come true.

We really need to teach her how to cover her cough or get her. Hang here. Get her a washcloth or something. No she's not. What I don't know. I'm just forget it.

Um,

He doesn't just Tell him that. Remind him that he is about to participate in, you know, it's informed. He doesn't just inform him. That he is about to participate in the coming of the kingdom. Gives him a command. Do not be afraid. To take to you, marry your wife?

Joseph. The reason for him to, Not take Mary. That's his wife would be if she was a sinful woman. For a very similar reason, as we have been thinking about Uh, The. The sort of man that god has chosen for jesus's dad. Joseph is hoping to have other children and we know that he does have other children.

And if Mary turns out not to be the godly woman that he had hoped that she would be Uh, then he would not want her to be the mother of his children. And yet the angels, when he says, do not be afraid to take to you. Marry your wife is saying you weren't wronged Or your hope wasn't wrong.

She is godly. In fact, she is so godly that the holy spirit has chosen her To conceive the sun. In whom to conceive the sun. Who will be by your federal representation, the son of david. Now, Mary was also descended. From david. The the angel is emphasizing. Um, The headship of the father.

On the earth. And so you saying do not be afraid to take to you. Marry your wife for that which is conceived in her. Is of the holy spirit. And,

But the angel doesn't just tell him that the holy spirit has conceived the child. That is in Mary. He tells him why? She will bring forth a son. You shall call his name, Jesus. For he, will save his people from their sins. So, Uh, the angel has chosen not just Mary, but he's chosen or the holy spirit has chosen.

Not just Mary but also Joseph hasn't he? And it's because of who Jesus is and what Jesus will do, who is Jesus? Jesus is Yahweh. He is God. We're about to get to that in the next. Uh, in the last part of the Passage. That's who Jesus said to his God become man.

Why? Because Um,

He is God become man. Why in order to save his people from their sins? Which in order to save us from our sins, he has to become a propitiation. He has to become a man. Who was yet big enough to sit to receive all of the wrath of God?

It's Matthew will record for us but quote from Psalm 22 at the cross, my God. My God, why have you forsaken me in? The answer is because he is saving his people from his sins. But before he gets to the cross. Before he gets to the point where he is a man who is big enough to receive wrath as big as the glory of God.

Which means you have to be a divine person. Not a human person. Jesus does not have two persons. He has two natures. Is one person. With a fully divined nature and a fully human nature. Before he gets to be a man. Who is? Receiving the wrath of God, for all of his people's sins to save them before he gets to, he will say his people from their sins.

At the cross. He has to be a baby first. And we have in verse 21 in very brief compass, the holy spirit's assignments, for Mary and for Joseph, the assigns Mary, to be the one who bears, but just like the curse on Eve was not just that it would be really uncomfortable for nine months.

And then, Unbelievably painful for hopefully not nine hours. Uh, and, you know, you would be in danger of physical death when you're bearing a child and all of that, the bringing forth the bearing children. Uh, with pain. Belongs to all of the, the chores of motherhood. And praise God.

That Jesus is not going to be a grief to his mother by sin. But he will be. Um, an assignment to his mother that Requires. Years of self-sacrifice for his sake. That's what motherhood is even apart from the sin of the child. So, she will bring forth a son.

Here is a big assignment. For Mary. And you shall call his name, Jesus. You singular to Joseph, personally pulling the name. Why? Because, Joseph has to be the head of the household. Joseph has to be the head of the household in leading the family in obeying God. Joseph has to be the head of the household in leading the family in serving God.

Joseph. Has to be the one who brings Jesus up. In the instruction and the training. Of the Lord. Kind of Jesus has never going to need corrective. Discipline, is he? But he's still growing in wisdom growing in stature growing in favor God and with men. And so you have both here, the nurturing that is assigned to the mother to bring forth the sun and the headship.

That is designed to the father represented by the exercise of that headship. In calling his name, you shall call his name, Jesus. This isn't just Don't worry, Joseph, she didn't fornicate, she didn't commit adultery, you can go ahead and have a baby. This is. God, the holy spirit has chosen you and Mary and Jesus to be a family to be a household.

That is fit. For God, the sun become a man in order to become. In order to be the one who saves his people, from their sins. Some 30 years later. This is. True to some extent every time. The Lord and his providence, brings a Christian man and a Christian woman together.

And household. He's not just making things, okay? For them. Blessing them in earthly things. He is calling them to a mission. Of, holy husbanding and holy wifing, and then he gives them when he gives them children. He calls them to the mission. Of holy parenting kingdom building inside their own.

And never has this mission been more critical than The particular household that was assigned to Joseph. And to marry. Because Jesus isn't just. A man who will save his people from their sins. He is God. He's got. Verse 22. So all this was done then it might be fulfilled which is spoken by the Lord, through the prophet saying, behold the virgin shall be with child and bear son and they shall call his name Emmanuel.

Which is trait, which is translated. God with us. It's interesting. The angel insists on the name Jesus in verse 21. And then verse 25 tells us Joseph obeys. He calls his name, Jesus. But then Matthew tells us in between, then this was to fulfill a prophecy. That said his name would be Emmanuel.

Now, the person who comes to the Bible, with a critical spirit would say, aha, you see his name isn't Jesus. There is, his name isn't doesn't turn out to be a manual. His name turns out to be Jesus, the prophecy. He was wrong.

It sounds absolutely ridiculous to you, doesn't it? For many reasons, one is people can have multiple names. But the big reason is right here in the Gospel of Matthew. Obviously, Matthew knows that Emmanuel and Jesus are do different names. At least they're two different collections of syllables. But what he wants us to know is that Emmanuel and Jesus are the same name.

That Jesus is not Yahweh saves and a generic way. Like all of the other Joshua's that came before him. Jesus, receives the name Jesus because he is Yahweh. Hussein's God has come to be with us. And in order that it would be God with us, he could not have a sinful nature.

It is impossible for the divine person. The second person of the Godhead, the second person of the Trinity to add to himself a sinful human nature. Because God doesn't sin. And so he had to be born of a virgin. In order for him. To add humanity. To himself. And yes, of course, secondarily.

He had to be a boy born of a virgin in order that we could be righteous. When we believe in him and we belong to him, when his righteousness, is counted to us. But far more important than guarding. Our ability to be made righteous as guarding the integrity of the righteousness of the second person of the Godhead.

And so, Joseph starts. The passage worrying that some dreadful sin, might have occurred. And the angels told him. No. Actually the holiest thing that has ever happened to humanity is just occurred. God, the sun. Is the baby. In your wife's will. Your betrothed swim. And Matthew, of course. Is making that all the more.

Explicit to us by telling us that it's the fulfillment of the prophecy. From Isaiah 8. You see Jesus is Yahweh is saves. Because only all they can say, That's what a has, you remember? Not too many weeks ago. That's what a has was failing to believe. He was putting his trust into with believer.

King of Assyria at the time. To save him from Syria and Israel. Um, And when a has, Refused to believe. God told him that y'all made himself. Would be. The stone of stumbling. And the rock of offense. To him. And he said he would give him a sign. And the sign doesn't actually take place for another 700 years.

What sort of sign is that? Well, there are other signs that did take place. Around the time of, AS But what Matthew is saying here, When he says, Jesus is Yahweh

who saves and Jesus is God with us. He is the Emmanuel child. That had to come from a virgin.

But Matthew is saying, is that only Jesus can save. And he either is for you all your salvation. Or he is a stone of stumbling. And the rock of offense. And so I wonder if, you know, Not just intellectually, but with your heart and your feelings. Is the Lord Jesus all your salvation.

Are you hoping?

Are you hoping? That you will kind of keep up with the things that you feel like you know you should do. You keep attending church and pay good attention in family worship. Um, and not act too badly, and that, these things will somehow contribute to your being, okay, with God, feeling?

Okay? With God. You're going to trust in something other. Like gay has died with believer. Are you going to trust in Jesus alone? And know that he is all your salvation because only God can save me. And he is God. Until that's what. Matthew is showing us. The Holy Spirit is, showing us by Matthew.

That's why the sign that was given this particular sign. That was given to Ahaz who becomes for us. The an example. Of someone who stumbles over. The salvation that is offered to. Because they don't want it to be. God alone who saves them. He says, don't be like Ahaz.

700 years in the making the sign comes. And the sign is not just assigned because the prophet said it would happen and then it did happen. It's a sign because the reality of what happened is the only way we can be saved. God became a man in order to save us.

From our sins. So, the Lord give you. My dear children. To know that the Lord Jesus is God. Who came to save us? And that this is why he had to be born of a virgin. And he has done it. And nothing you can do. Can add to what he has done.

You give yourself up entirely you, give your hope, for salvation up entirely. To the who the Lord Jesus is, and what the Lord Jesus. Has done. Let's pray.

Father in heaven. We thank you. What you did? In Joseph's family. And for coming by the angel. And instructing him about it, recording it by your Spirit. So that we could receive not just the angel's instruction. But also, Matthew's instruction both from your Holy Spirit. We pray that we would not stumble over Christ.

But that we would trust in him your son, our God. Very God, very God together with you and with the Spirit from everlasting to everlasting. And that we would know him as the one who has saved us and that we would Not. Rest any of our hope on anything else, but him And so give us to do this by your Spirit.

We ask in Jesus name, Amen.