

GOD WITH US (Part #1)

Our Christmas 2017 Series of five lessons will be taken from Matthew chapters one and two.

The theme of lesson one is “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows.”

We will study our lesson text by the following five homiletic points of GOD WITH US.

(Matt.1:18)	Joseph’s discovery	Pregnancy problem
(Matt.1:19)	Joseph’s decision	Pain of divorce
(Matt.1:20-21)	Joseph’s divine intervention	Preaching angel
(Matt.1:22-23)	Joseph’s divine revelation	Prophetic enlightenment
(Matt.1:24-25)	Joseph’s directive will	Plan of God reactivated

This lesson will study six aspects of GOD WITH US (part one)

1. Joseph discovered Mary was three months pregnant after a three month visit with Elizabeth (Matt.1:18; Luke 1:24-38, 56)

Principle: God was with Mary working His plan out in her life.

(Luke 1:27) “Virgin engaged to man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.”

(Matt.1:18) “When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by (ek+abl of source) ~~the~~ Holy Spirit.” [not a definite article] (work of conception)

2. Joseph made the decision to divorce Mary (Matt.1:19).

All the paper work was done and only needed to be signed. He decided to sleep on it before finalizing the divorce.

Note how Joseph is described:

(Matt.1:19) “And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.”

If Mary got pregnant after her engagement to Joseph by another man, Joseph has two Scriptural choices:

- Divorce, public or private (Deut.24:1-4; Matt.5:31) [showing her mercy]
- Death, public or private (Deut.22:13-30) [showing her wrath]

Joseph chose private divorce – “Not wanting to disgrace her.”

We need to pause here and teach an important doctrinal point about making sure our decisions are accurately based on the Directive Will of Word of God regarding a matter.

3. Joseph's perspective:

He was so sure about Mary's situation, choices available to him, and his right to make that decision; it would have been nearly impossible to talk to him out of it.

He was so confident that he had thought it out carefully. But here was his problem as a spiritually mature believer.

- He made a false assumption, and his decisions were being made from it, against the Plan of God.

His False assumption – Mary was pregnant by another man!

Unfortunately, every believer who walks more by sight, than by faith, would have completely agreed with Joseph – and chose against the Plan of God.

We have studied the doctrinal principle of how a false assumption works:

A **false assumption** leads to a **false interpretation**, leading to a **false expectation**, and to **false application**.

- False assumption Mary is pregnant by another man
- False interpretation Scriptural divorce or death
- False expectation Must divorce but doesn't want to disgrace Mary
- False application Joseph chose private divorce

He applied correct Scripture to his false assumption. Now he has created a little snow ball rolling down hill, growing larger as it goes. What began as a bad dream has turned into a terrifying nightmare. Joseph was a good Bible student but made the error of walking by sight and not by faith (2 Cor.5:7).

4. God will intervene because of the importance and fulfillment of His Perfect Plan unfolding in human history (Gal.4:4).

(2 Tim.2:13) "God is faithful even when we are faithless" (1 Cor.1:9; 1 John 1:9).

God intervened by using a teaching angel in Joseph's dream (Matt.1:20-21)

Note the five-point message of grace solution to his problem: **marriage; miracle; male; messiah; ministry.**

5. The teaching angel gave Joseph specific Scriptural revelation relevant to his problem

(Matt.1:22-23; **Isa/7:14**) [Immanuel] (God with us). "Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through **the prophet.**" (Matt.1:22)

It wasn't to fulfill the "stuff" that Joseph was going through which primarily was the result of self-induced misery (SIM), but to fulfill the Directive Will of God in the lives of Mary and Joseph.

6. Now Joseph has God's Directive Will to apply to his problem and to fulfill their calling regarding parenting the Son of God "as the Savior of His people from their sins" (Matt.1:21, 24-25).

Joseph is back on message and operational in the Plan of God. Joseph has fulfilled the (1 Cor10:13) exercise by faith.

Doctrinal principle: Every circumstance in life is designed to cause the spiritually advancing believer to focus their attention on the Directive Will of God and on the Grace resolution to their problems.