

BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER

In our last 2018 Christmas lesson, we mentioned the **conjunction (de)** used in Matt.1:18-25 to interject new material into the fulfillment of the birth of Christ out of messianic genealogy (Matt.1:1-17).

We used the conjunction (**de**) to develop a six-part outline of (Matt.1:18-25) and referred to this as a Greek marker of a passage to be studied.

- (Matt.1:18) Spiritual pregnancy of Mary
- (Matt.1:19) Spiritual problem to Joseph
- (Matt.1:20) Spiritual Promise to Joseph of his marriage to Mary
- (Matt.1:21) Spiritual Promise to Joseph of the Son and Savior
- (Matt.1:22-23) Spiritual Prophecy of (Isa.7:14) of the Immanuel Child
- (Matt.1:24-25) Spiritual Performance of Joseph (arose, did, took, kept, and called)

This lesson will study three aspects of “Before They Came Together.”

1. We will begin by separating the second sentence of (Matt.1:18) into three parts for examination.

- **Promised** - “When His mother **Mary** had been betrothed (mnesteuo/ **a.p.ptc.gsf**) to **Joseph**,
- **Pre-marital high drama** - “**before** (prin/ adverb + e/ disjunctive conjunction + a.infin) **they** (**autos**) (a.pl.m of general reference of betrothed) **came together** (**sunerchomai/ a.infin/ fact/** verbal noun of doctrine abstinence of pre-marital sex),
- **Pregnant** - “**she** was found (heurisko/ **a.p.ind 3ps/ Main Verb**) to be (echo/ **p.a.ptc nsf/** verbal adjective) with child (en+loc of sphere/ womb (gaster/ lsf/ **pregnant**) by (ek+abl. of source) Holy Spirit (Hagios Pneuma/ abl.sn/ no def. article/ creative work).” (Matt.1:18b)
 - The main verb (“found”) is important to the two participles (betrothed) and (pregnant). Matthew separated them by our lesson title – “**Before They Came Together.**”

2. Despite over-whelming judgmental criticism regarding her pregnancy, they chose to walk by faith and not by sight.

(Matt.1:24-25) “And Joseph **arose** from his sleep, and **did as** the angel of Lord commanded him, and **took her as his wife**; and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; **and he called His name Jesus.**”

They chose to remain celibate while courting and during engagement and even after virgin pregnancy (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-7).

They chose to walk by faith before marriage to prepared themselves for marriage and family and life itself. They chose to even go a step further in their walk by faith to abstain “until she gave birth to the Son of God.”

They chose to have a house full of children (Matt.13:55-56).

They chose to walk by faith despite others not accepting the truth regarding Mary’s first pregnancy as something even beyond miraculous – virgin conception by Holy Spirit.

The devil used legalistic religion to throw it in the face of Jesus amid great ministry.

(John 8:41) “They said to Him, ‘We were not **born of fornication**; we have one father.’”

Jesus identified legalistic religion’s spiritual problem:

(John 8:15) “You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.”

(John 8:47) “He who is of God hears the words of God; **for this reason**, you do not hear them, **because you are not of God.**” (John 14:6)

3. A four-point “Biblical Test” for Christians who are courting, thinking about marriage.

• **First test:**

- Is a believer to marry an unbeliever? (1 Cor.7:39; 9:5; 2 Cor.6:14-16).

Your Response? _____

• **Second test:**

- Is the immorality test taken from (1 Cor.6:18 through 1 Cor.7:2)?

Your Response? _____

- Pre-marital sex is a sin against what?

Your Response? _____

- How is the Christian body described?

Your Response? _____

- Why is your body described in this way?

Your Response? _____

- Why are you not to sexually arouse one another before marriage?

Your Response? _____

• **Third test:**

- Is the “burning passion test” taken from (1 Cor.7:8-9).

Your Response? _____

- Why should you reschedule your marriage to an early date?

Your Response? _____

- **Fourth test:**

- Decide; Get married or Stay single! - Read (1 Cor.7:7-8, 17, 32-31; 39-40).

Your Response? _____

- Both choices are to consider what from God?

Your Response? _____

- Either choice will require the same responsibility, which is what?

Your Response? _____

- What concerns differ between a married couple and unmarried individuals?

Your Response? _____