

911 CALL TO JOSEPH

In our lesson text, we learn that God sent Gabriel on a 911 Emergency Call to Joseph (Matt.1:20-23).

NOTE: I found it interesting that the first 911 call in U.S.A was made from Haleyville, Alabama on February 16, 1968.

The emergency was that Joseph was about to divorce Mary based on a false assumption of Mary's adultery and pregnancy.

This lesson will study <u>three aspects</u> of Gabriel's 911 Emergency Call to Joseph.

1. We will begin with Mary's side of the story.

She is the only one who really knew the truth regarding her pregnancy and Joseph's charge of adultery against her.

When she returned pregnant from visiting Elizabeth, she must have been very excited! Bringing news of the birth of John to her aged aunt and uncle, as well as her conception by The Holy Spirit (Lk.1:26-38) [note/ Gabriel] (Lk.1:26-27, 34-35).

- She probably thought that the one person in the whole world that would believe and rejoice with her was her "righteous" Joseph.
- She could never have believed that Joseph would believe the worst rather than the best of her.
- She probably never thought that when she responded to Gabriel's message, "**Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to Your Word,**" that all this would happen (Luke 1:38).
 - She was probably thinking, "Tell my wonderful heavenly Father that it would be my highest privilege to be chosen for this ministry."
- This was Mary's "**Behold**" life-changing, spiritual transformation, **moment**.

Did you notice that friendship love and romantic love were not able to survive this relationship test by two spiritually mature believers? **What is missing is found in 1 John 4:16-19.**

PRINCIPLE: Every crisis in the life of a spiritually advancing believer is intended to motivate them to focus their attention on the appropriate Categorical Bible Doctrine, pertinent to the situation, and the Grace solution to it (Ps.16:7-9).

2. As a spiritually mature believer, Joseph has the doctrinal capacity to think and act according to the Directive Will of God under maximum pressure (1 Cor.10:13).

(1 Pet.1:6-7) "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The absolute truth is the problem lies within Joseph, not within Mary.

- Why wasn't Joseph willing to give Mary the benefit of the doubt?
- Why didn't he research her claim of **virgin conception** within the word of God?

As a spiritually mature believer, he is (thinking) and (acting) from Human Viewpoint and conformity to the world (i.e. the natural law of conception) rather than to what the Word of God told him (conception by Holy Spirit) (Rom.12:2).

As a spiritually mature believer, Joseph has accepted the natural law of conception and has moved on to a doctrinal solution to adultery and divorce.

One basic question: "Joseph why haven't you researched the Bible regarding the central issue - virgin conception?"

(Isa.7:14) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

(Matt.1:23) "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Joseph chose to make Mary the cause of his unhappiness, his misery and now, his having to divorce!

But remember, none of this is TRUE!

He has created unnecessary self-induced misery (S.I.M), all based on a false assumption! **What Joseph perceived was not what was conceived.**

3. God intervened because of Joseph's desire to do the Directive Will of God. (Positive Volition)

God sent Gabriel on a 911 emergency mission to Joseph.

This is the third of four special messianic mission trips into Israel by Gabriel regarding the "**fullness of time**" of the first coming of Christ into the world.

- (Luke 1:13) Zechariah
- (Luke 1:30) Mary
- (Matt.1:20) Joseph
- (Lk.2:10-11) Temple shepherds

(Gal.4:4) "But when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the Law."

When Joseph chose to disconnect with Mary's pregnancy, he was also disconnecting himself with the Directive Will of God. (2 Cor.1:12)

The Over-Ruling Will of God intervene (Joseph's 911). There are three categories of God's will that every spiritually advancing believer needs to pay attention to:

- **Directive Will** (Matt.1:20-23)
- **Permissive Will** (adultery to divorce)
- **Over-ruling Will** (911 to Joseph)

It is not God's intention for any believer with Positive Volition to fail in the execution of His Directive Will. (2 Tim.2:13; 1 Cor.10:13)