

GOD WITH US

In Matt.1:20-21, we studied Joseph's first life changing "Behold Moment" in the birth story of Jesus Christ. In this first "Behold Moment," Gabriel gave three future declarations regarding the birth of Christ (Matt.1:21).

In Matt.1:23, we will study Joseph's second "Behold Moment" in this birth story. In the second "Behold Moment," Gabriel gave three more future declarations regarding the birth of Christ (Matt.1:23).

But before we get to the second "Behold Moment" life changing experience with Joseph,

We need to look at Matthew's introduction to it:

(Matt.1:22) "**Now (DE)** all this took place (geographical, operational, and mental will of God) to fulfill (directive will) which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet."

Joseph's second "Behold Moment"

(Matt.1:23) "Behold (horao/ a.m.impv), the virgin (he parthenos) shall be (echo/ f.a.ind.3ps) with child and shall bear (tikto/ f.m.ind.3ps) a Son (huios), and they shall call (kaleo/ f.a.ind.3pl) His name(to onoma/ asn) Immanuel, which translated means (methermeneuo/ p.p.ptc.nsn), 'God (ho theos) with us (met+gen/ ego/ gplm).'"

This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of GOD WITH US.

1. It is possible to be committed to doing the Directive Will of God;

and yet become engaged in subjective human viewpoint thinking which results in a false assumption; that will lead you down a path that takes you out of the Directive Will of God. And it wasn't based on Negative Volition to God's revealed truth.

(As an after-thought) What we call a mistake is often a wrong decision or choice in life. We can't fault Joseph for the decision to divorce Mary, based on his assumption of adultery and pregnancy. 100% of 100 people would probably agree with Joseph and they would also be wrong.

Joseph was so sure that his assumption about Mary's pregnancy and his choice to divorce her was right; that one might assume that it would be nearly impossible to change his mind.

2. Joseph was a spiritually mature believer and a mature student of the Bible.

Yet he made an immature believer's error of walking by sight – and not by faith.

(2 Cor.5:7) "**For** (dia+abl. by means) **we walk** (peripateo/ p.a.ind.3pl) **by faith, not** (ouk) **by** (dia+abl. by means) **sight**" (eidōs) [to denote external, rather than internal viewpoint of horao] [rationalism, empiricism, human viewpoint and source of pessimism]

- By walking by sight, Joseph believed he had two options.
- By walking by faith, he discovered he needed only one.

He should have searched the Scripture on the main issue - "Jewish virgin from the house of David pregnancy" (Matt.1:23) (Isa.7:14). It would have saved him from a lot of self-induced misery.

3. Notice that when Gabriel arrived, he gave Joseph specific Scriptural revelation on his problem (Matt.1:20-23; Isa.7:14).

Keep the main thing the main thing: “For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Phil.2:13)

- Joseph believed Mary was a virgin to Him
- Mary knew she was a virgin to The Lord
- The Lord knew Mary was a virgin to God

Then Gabriel told Joseph how Mary became pregnant by The Holy Spirit and that the child would be the messianic Savior (Matt.1:20).

Note that Gabriel’s doctrinal message didn’t address Joseph’s self-induced misery situation. But it did address the correct response to the Directive Will of God regarding Mary’s pregnancy such as - “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife.” (Matt.1:20)

4. But God has given us a great Christmas doctrinal gift from Joseph’s experience.

(2 Tim.2:13) “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

- God is with you whether you know it, practice it, or believe it! (Heb.13:5).
- God is faithful whether you are faithful or faithless to Him! (2 Tim.2:13; Heb.13:20-21).

(2 Tim.2:13) is one of four Trustworthy Statements (doctrinal promises/ four “true” statements).

The main message behind these Trustworthy Statements is recorded for the spiritually advancing believer who is going through Undeserved Suffering.

God desired to teach Joseph how to live, endure, and be faithful through Undeserved Suffering. God desired to teach him that God remained faithful even when he wasn’t.

But first God must get Joseph to change his mind and direction volitionally (of his own free will in the Angelic Conflict).

So, God sent a teaching angel to Joseph as an early Christmas gift.

- God walked Joseph out of a self-inflicted crisis, by grace, because he was positive to do God’s will once he heard and understood it scripturally. (Eph.6:6; 2 Cor.4:7-12)