

**Intro**

- ~ The gospel of Matthew shows us the birth of Christ through Joseph's eyes whereas Luke shows us the birth of Christ through Mary's eyes
- ~ Luke records the events of the incarnation with Gabriel speaking to Mary
- ~ Matthew records the events that pertain to Joseph's role. The angel tells Joseph it's ok to marry Mary. Then the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt. Then the angel of the Lord tells Joseph to take his family and leave Egypt
- ~ We see Mary speaking in Luke but we don't see Joseph speaking in Matthew
- ~ Kent Hughes calls the HS the shy member of the trinity and Joseph the shy member of the family
- ~ Joseph has also been called by theologians "quiet Joseph." While we don't read of Joseph speaking we see much of Joseph's character in Matthew's narrative
- ~ Matthew's genealogy constantly uses the word "begat" but when he comes to starting point of telling us about Christ he says, "Joseph the husband of Mary"
- Joseph is the husband of Mary of whom was born Christ
- ~ Jesus is called the son of Mary never the son of Joseph
- ~ Furthermore, Jesus is called the Son of God
- ~ The Father calls Jesus "my son" in Hosea 11:1, *"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."*
- ~ In Matt 2:15 Matthew recalls this verse and applies it to Jesus as God's son
- ~ We have the mention of the dream when the angel spoke to Joseph
- ~ Broadus - Divine communications by means of dreams are mentioned by Mat\_1:20, Mat\_2:12-13, Mat\_2:19, Mat\_27:19; and referred to in Act\_2:17; not elsewhere in New Testament. Edersheim shows that the Jews attached great importance to dreams. There was probably something connected with such dreams as really gave divine guidance to distinguish them from ordinary dreams.
- ~ However the Lord interacted with people in dreams is uncertain but we do know the Jews placed a value on the importance of dreams
- ~ Perhaps this is the angel Gabriel appearing to Joseph but we don't know for sure

**Outline**

- 1 Divine Comfort – Fear not concerning this child (v20)
- 2 Divine Conception – Holy Spirit conception of this child (v20)
- 3 Divine Calling – Jesus is to be the name of this child (v21)
- 4 Divine Child – Prophetic proof of this child (v22,23)

**Text**

- 1 Divine Comfort – Fear not concerning this child (v20)
  - ~ Joseph had some reasons to be fearful and nervous
  - ~ Mary was his legal wife (though they didn't live together yet) was pregnant and he knew it wasn't his child
  - ~ Situations like this (hard situations in which we have to make hard decisions) can make us fearful
  - ~ This situation already had Joseph on pins and needles
  - ~ The problem is Joseph didn't have all the facts of the situation
  - ~ This teaches us not to make important decisions until we have as much information as possible
  - ~ This teaches us not to think less about people until we have all the information
  - ~ This is what Joseph was faced with and he has to think of a way to tactfully deal with it
  - ~ Joseph is faced with a difficult/fearful decision either way
    - 1 If he takes Mary to be his wife people will think he himself violated God's law
    - 2 If he divorces Mary for what appears to be infidelity she will be an outcast in society forever
- ~ We know Joseph is a man of character and because he is he's thinking about how to go about this so as not to cause further damage to Mary. It's in this state of mind we find Joseph when the angel approaches him in v20
- ~ Joseph was afraid to take Mary as his wife
- ~ The angel says to Joseph what we find the angels saying to those they have appeared in the bible, "fear not"
- ~ This is an oft repeated phrase in the OT & NT
- ~ The word "fear" is used 400 times in the bible

~ In the nativity passages alone there are 5 times an angel appears and says "Fear Not"

- Matt 1:20 to Joseph
- Luke 1:13 to Zacharias
- Luke 1:30 to Mary
- Luke 2:10 to the shepherds

~ There's 62 "Fear Not's" in the bible

~ There's many reasons we fear – finances, health, economy, politics, schedules, people problems, situation out of control, the future

~ Joseph was afraid of the situation. The Lord in this dream tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife

~ He was thinking of how to divorce her privately and not cause her social scorn

~ For these fears there's a Divine Comfort – Do Not Fear

Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph

~ Matt 1:20 *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

~ Matt 1:24 *Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:*

~ Matt 2:13 *And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.*

~ Matt 2:19 *But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,*

~ There was no completed canon of scripture so God spoke to people through dreams and angels at time

~ Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

~ When we fear we have the providence of God working on our behalf and scriptures to give us comfort and hope

2 Divine Conception – HS conception of this child (v26)

~ Current population of the world is about 7.9 billion and not one of them is a Divine Conception

~ Matthew tells us about a Divine Conception

~ Matthew has just given us a long list of names in the preceding verses but they were human conceptions but then he tells us about a Divine Conception

~ Matthew tells us in v18 to set the premise that Mary was found with child of the HS

~ We don't know if Mary told Joseph about the HS producing this pregnancy in her or not but we do know an angel tells Joseph about it

~ An angel shows up to Joseph and Mary's faith is vindicated

~ Twice there is mention that this child is conceived by the HS

- V18 – Matthew tells us this
- V20 – the angel tells Joseph this in a dream

~ Then, so to speak, he stood at the rim of the universe and dove headlong past a billion stars, through the Milky Way, and into the womb of the Virgin Mary, where he swam and grew until his birth that cold winter's night. "He appeared in a body," sang the early church. This was the initial revelation of Christ. "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Col. 2:9).

~ Luke also tells us that when the angel Gabriel approached Mary with the news of God's plan she was told the HS would produce this pregnancy in Mary (Lk 1:31,35)

~ Kent Hughes "The Holy Spirit made the preexistent second person of the Trinity into a human being."

~ v18 the word birth means genesis. It wasn't the genesis of Jesus Christ as God but of his humanity.

~ v20 the word conceived means produced in Mary

~ Lk 1:35 = Overshadowed (1982 episkiazo) to cast a shadow upon, to envelope in a haze of brilliancy, to invest with preternal influence

~ Uses of episkiazo are in the transfiguration (Matt 17:5; Mk 9:7; Lk 9:34) when the glory cloud overshadowed the disciples; Lk 1:35 with Mary and Acts 5:15 where the sick were brought to Peter hoping his shadow might pass over them and heal them

~ Matt 1:20 = Conceived (1080 gennao) the word means procreate, that which is begotten in her

~ We can almost read Jn 1:14 into this passage here and see the incarnation. The context of Jn 1:14 is the word was made flesh and tabernacles among us

~ Matt 1:21 she shall bring forth (5088 tikto) to produce, to bear, to be born. This is emphasizing the human aspect of Christ's birth

Scriptures on the Incarnation (at least 18 different scriptures references are found. Here are some)

~ Gen 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

~ Is 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

~ Isaiah 9:6,7 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

~ Is 53:2 *For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

~ Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

~ Matt 1:21 *she shall bring forth (5088 tikto) to produce, to bear, to be born. This is emphasizing the human aspect of Christ's birth*

~ Luke 1:31-35 *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

~ Luke 2:7 *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

~ Luke 2:11,12 *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

~ Jn 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

~ Gal 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

~ Phil 2:6-8 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

~ 1 Tim 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

~ Think through the humanness of Christ so as to show he was a man

- He left his place of sovereignty in heaven to be a fetus (Mary didn't give birth to a child she carried for a month. It was a full-term natural pregnancy). Imagine God the Son allowing himself to be go through the birth experience. Instead of sitting on a throne he's inside the womb of a teenage girl on earth.
- His birth was a normal experience in the sense of Mary having birth pains, an actual delivery, putting cloths around the newborn baby Jesus, he was laid in a manger (Lk 2:11,12)
- He was trained in the profession of his earthly dad Joseph. He was trained in carpentry in a small village in Nazareth (Matt 13:55; Mk 6:3). He worked with his hands, had a normal family life with brothers and sisters
- Barclay on the carpenter
  - They said, "Is not this the carpenter?" The word used for carpenter is tekton (G5045). Now tekton (G5045) does mean a worker in wood, but it means more than merely a joiner. It means a craftsman. In Homer the tekton (G5045) is said to build ships and houses and temples. In the old days, and still to-day in many places, there could be found in little towns and villages a craftsman who would build you anything from a chicken-coop to a house; the kind of man who could build a wall, mend a roof, repair a gate; the craftsman, the handy-man, who with few or no instruments and with the simplest tools could turn his hand to any job. That is what Jesus was like. But the point is that the people of Nazareth despised Jesus because he was a working-man. He was a man of the people, a layman. a simple man--and therefore they despised him.
  - While they despised him not for his teaching but because of his teaching and works but because he was carpenter who did those things. So, in this scenario it's his earthly occupation that caused him no to be received.

### 3 Divine Calling – Jesus is to be the name of this child (v21)

~ Joseph is given very specific information about the child Mary is carrying

- Son (she's carrying a boy)
- Call him Jesus
- He'll save people from their sins

~ There were many Jewish boys with the name Joshua (or, in the Greek, Jesus); but Mary's Boy was called "Jesus the Christ." The word Christ means "anointed"; it is the Greek equivalent of Messiah. He is "Jesus the Messiah."

Jesus is His human name; Christ is His official title *Wiersbe*

~ We find in his name his purpose – to save people from their sins

~ The baby Mary is carrying is meant to be more than a carpenter (Mk 6:1-6)

~ He's meant to bear the sins of the world

~ To Mary Gabriel said in Luke 2:30-33, *"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

*Luk 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

~ The words of the angel were confirmed to them by Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:21-38)

- Simeon has had a promise from the HS that he won't die until he sees the Christ (So Simeon takes Jesus up in his arms and in an explosion of praise and thanks worships God. It's as if he had a thought and Mary and Joseph catch him mid-thought not knowing what he's talking about)
- V30 my eyes have seen your salvation
- V32 Jesus is a light to the gentiles (Is 9:2; 42:6; 51:4; 60:1-3)
- V38 Anna came at that same moment and began to give thanks to God and spoke of Christ as bringing redemption

~ From the book Jotham, "Jesus is God's response to our selfish sinful nature." Page 74

~ In Hebrews 10:5-9 Jesus himself says I have come to do your will O God. The old sacrifices aren't enough but you have prepared a body for me to do your will and become the ultimate sacrifice

~ In v25 Joseph did just as he was told by the angel

### 4 Divine Child – Prophetic proof of this child (v22,23)

~ This child is of divine origin

~ To prove the divine origin of this child the Matthew draws a passage from the OT to validate its claims of the child Mary is carrying in her womb

~ V21 = In this verse the angel tells Joseph what to name the child (Jesus) and what this name means

~ V22,23 = Matthew tells us this was done to fulfill an OT passage

~ The Old Testament prophecies indicated that the Messiah would be born of a woman (Gen. 3:15),

Bible Exposition Commentary - Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Loyal (Matthew).

~ *Is 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

~ Just as Is 7:14 was a sign to the Jews in Isaiah's day it's also a sign to the Jews of in the days of Jesus' advent

~ It's also a sign to the early church and the modern day

~ Matthew is quick to support the doctrine of the virgin birth, and his quote in 1:23 is from Isaiah 7:14, originally written by the prophet Isaiah over seven hundred years before Jesus' birth. This verse in its original Old Testament context seems to be referring to a child who was to be born in that setting of Isaiah's day, rather than centuries later. However, Matthew's inspired revelation fills the original statement out to its full intention. God is never so clearly present with his people as he is through his virgin-born Son, the Messiah of Israel. Jesus is Immanuel! The linguistic components of the name Immanuel and their individual translations—Im = "with," anu = "us," and el = "God"—make it clear that Isaiah's original prophecy could refer in its fullest sense only to the promised Messiah.

This name of Jesus is a strong argument for his deity. *Holman New Testament*

~ This validates Jesus as the promised Messiah

~ It was clear to Mary and now it's clear to Joseph this is no ordinary child – this child is the Son of God

~ Jesus is a divine child