

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Community Group Study 18 Apr 2010



Introduction

God's declaration of Jesus' birth to Mary and Joseph was not easy news for them to take. The implications, physically, spiritually and socially caused a tumult for them and to submit to God's way would require them to sacrifice the way of life that they knew.

When God speaks to us and shows us His way and His plan, our lives always get turned upside down. We must decide to submit or rebel.

Discussion

- >>How was Jesus' birth bad news for Mary and Joseph?
- >>What did it take for them to surrender to God's plan for the way that Jesus would come to this world?
- >>Is it easy for anyone to follow God?

Explanation

- >>Why did God have to bring Jesus into the world through Mary?
- >>Compare Joseph and Mary's response to Jonah's response to God's call.
- >>Why is it that when we pray for the world to change, God tries to change us first?

Application

- >>In what ways are God's plans different from yours?
- >>Think of how God is calling you to turn your life upside down so that you can conform to His ways.
- >>Pray for faith and courage to follow that call.