



Sermon Title: "The Saving God Who Came to Us"
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25
Pastor Stephen Schultze
Sunday, December 6, 2020

Introduction:

- Joseph and Mary's betrothal was the second step in normal Jewish marriage procedures, one which could only be broken by death or divorce.
- Joseph exemplified the proper relationship of the godly person to the law of God, a major theme of Matthew's Gospel. (*Hosea 6:6*)

1. Jesus' **miraculous** conception heralded his divine incarnation. (v. 18)

- The birth of Jesus Christ was God the Father's plan carried out by the Holy Spirit. (*Luke 1:35*)

2. Jesus' divine identity required an **angelic** explanation. (v. 19-21a)

- The **angelic** activity at the birth of Jesus was unprecedented in Scripture. (*Joseph-Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 19; Mary-Luke 1:26; Zecharias-Luke 1:13; Shepherds-Luke 2:9, 13*)

3. Jesus' earthly arrival confirmed God's redemptive **intervention**. (v. 21b-23; *Isaiah 7:14; Titus 2:11*)

- Jesus' incarnation paved the way for us to experience God's abiding, eternal **presence**. (*John 3:17*)

4. Joseph's obedient faith resulted in Jesus' earthly **adoption**. (v. 16, 24-25; *Luke 2:21*)

Conclusion:

Through the birth of Jesus Christ, the **heart** of God for sinful man was put on miraculous display. (*Isaiah 42:1-4; 45:22; Psalm 130:7-8*)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application:

- Why is the virgin birth significant to the identity of Jesus Christ?
- How did Joseph's initial response to Mary's pregnancy fulfil Hosea 6:6?
- What do the names "Jesus" & "Immanuel" communicate about God's heart for sinners?
- What is Matthew's purpose in identifying the fulfillment of prophecy in Christ's birth?
- How might Joseph's obedience have been difficult? Why was Joseph's obedience important?