

I. Supernatural Conception - Matthew 1:18

1. In between the Old Testament and here, is the chronology of Matthew (1:1-17)
2. The “birth” of Jesus
 - A. His origin made it special
 - B. Mary was “pledged” to Joseph
 - Three stages of a Jewish marriage
 - 1) the parents made arrangements
 - 2) betrothal, -about one year before the marriage took place
 - 3) marriage
 - C. Mary was found to be pregnant - even though she was a virgin
3. Greek myths had god impregnating virgins through sexual contact
 - Mary’s pregnancy was different, she did not have physical contact with Joseph
4. So God creates as He desires - the creative power of God

Rea **Ideas:**

1. Consider other unusual births - Samson, John the Baptist, Samuel, Isaac
2. How does Jesus’ birth differ?
3. Why is the virgin birth important?
4. Couple the heritage of Jesus in verses 1-17, and what does the virgin birth mean?

II. Promised Messiah - Matthew 1:19-23

1. Joseph is called Mary’s husband
 - betrothal meant Mary and Joseph were married in their culture
2. The dilemma of Mary’s pregnancy - what will Joseph do (**verse 19**)
 - A. He knew he was not the father - she must’ve been unfaithful to him
 - B. The law permitted a divorce (Dt. 22:13-30)
 - the scripture plainly says Joseph was faithful to the law
3. He did:
 - A. Not want to disgrace her publically
 - a merciful outlook
 - B. Did not want to get married - after all she has been unfaithful
 - C. These type “dilemmas” expose our relationship, our Christianity
 - D. He decided to divorce, but do it quietly
4. He “considered” what to do (**verse 20**)
 - A. An angel came to him from God in a dream
 - B. Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife
 - C. Do not fear the consequences of this action
 - D. That which is conceived is of the Holy Spirit
 - to accept this “solution” meant he had to believe that God does miracles and that God is actively involved in our world
5. A new perspective on righteousness - he became righteous in a new way - in spite of the law
6. Name the child Jesus (**verse 21**) - usually the naming process took place on the eighth day after birth
 - A. “Jesus” means “Yahweh is salvation”

- I think Mary was lucky to have such an honorable man
3. Mary was devoted to her Lord, but no more than Joseph appears to be
 4. It does not appear that their friends and family knew any of this, - perhaps, perhaps not. Doing the right thing by Mary, may have been hard - but is that not the measure of this man?
 4. For you, what is the most difficult part of obeying God?

Darryl Wood/ SS Lesson for December 13, 2015