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

Rea

-a merciful outlook

Rea Rea

- 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

Rea

- -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"

Rea -savior

-"savior" fits the words to follow... He will save His people from their sins

Rea

- B. What type Messiah then? A saving from sin, not a natural leader
- 7. His coming fulfills the words of the prophet (verse 22)

-citation from Isaiah 7:14

Rea 8. The evidence points to His being Messiah:

- A. The genealogy verses 1-17
- B. The prophet's words here
- C. The virgin birth fulfills the Old Testament prophecy the fact that Jesus will be a virgin
- 9. The virgin will conceive (verse 23)
 - A. Isaiah and Ahaz fought over what to do in foreign invasion
 - B. The coming child (predicted at Is. 7:14) would be a sign
 - -his name would be Immanuel (meaning God with us)

Rea Rea -the child will be "God?"

-the idea is the immanence of God... - His closeness

Rea Ideas:

- 1. The words point to the future not yet a reality
- 2. The context is a pregnant girl... so a problem, and a problem birth... is the gateway for God to do big things

-so are we saying that God can work through a young pregnant out of wedlock girl? It has been my experience that God often works through what I conceive (at least originally) as a problem

- 3. Do you think you would believed this dream?
- 4. Don't you think this all bothered Joseph? his girlfriend/wife came up pregnant -he is a good and faithful servant of the Lord... how will this look?
- 5. Does this mean that God works through sinful things? or the appearance of sinful things? with our "Christian" values would we believe that this girl was an instrument of God?

III. Obedience Required - Matthew 18:24-25

- 1. He did what God required (verse 24)
- 2. Through obedience he faced down fear he stuck with God's plan
- 3. He took Mary as his wife in obedience

-he began to take care of her and the baby that was coming

- 4. Obedience requires we sacrifice our own preferences in favor of God's way
- 5. He did not consummate the marriage (verse 25)
 - A. So the status of Mary as a virgin is guarded
 - B. He gave him the name "Jesus"
- 6. Matthew's gospel introduces Jesus as fully man and fully divine

Human - born to a human woman in a human way, and existed in a human body Divine - conceived by the Holy Spirit as God's Son

Rea Ideas:

- 1. What does obedience require of Joseph?
- 2. Loyal to God's message in a dream an obedient servant
 - -an honorable man

- -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