

JOSEPH CALLED HIM SAVIOR

Matthew 1:18-25

Do we really understand Christmas story?

Teacher reading about Jesus' birth to her class.

Paused to see if they understood:

"What do we call 3 wise men?" 5-yr-old: "3 maggots,"

"What gift did Magi bring baby Jesus?"

"Gold, Frankensteins & smurfs!"

We all had such errors in our thinking as kids...

Impossible to *grasp* story of Jesus' birth without under-standing what writers say about Him.

Participants experienced *mixed emotions*.

Joy & excitement at birth of the King—their *Messiah!*

Fear & disappointment relating good news to *their* life.

What emotions do you suppose Joseph felt?

What thoughts were going through his head?

Ever been disappointed by someone you cared about; thought you knew well?

Joseph's story recorded in Matt.

Matt. wrote *Jewish* readers: *Jesus is Messiah!*

Evidence includes story from Joseph's perspective:

TESTIMONY OF JESUS' BIRTH 1:18-25

Birth of Jesus: Birth of the Savior/Messiah.

4 lines of evidence combine in acct. of Joseph's story:

1. EVIDENCE OF VIRGIN BIRTH 18-19

Mary's miraculous condition creates Joseph's perplexing dilemma

Mary's miraculous condition: 18 "This is how the

birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be **with child through H.S.**"

People discover Mary's pregnant!

How would you react if it happened to a girl you know?

PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED BECAUSE...

...everyone thinks she's godly woman

Opinion affirmed by God's messenger in Luke 1.

...she's committed to Joseph.

She's "pledged to be married to Joseph"

We compare to **engage-ment**—not serious enough.

They're considered married (called her **husband**).

They made permanent commit-ment to each other.

"Betrothal"=post-marital probation—to assure purity!

If ever there was couple for whom people thought this would NOT be issue, it was Joseph & Mary.

Joseph never *dreamed* he'd worry about this test!

*...this couple's **committed to purity.***

They'd never have premarital relationship!

He knew they'd never done anything!

He discovers she's pregnant –realizes marriage is over.

We'd only understand intensity of this disappointment,

if person we trust has done something similar

if one you love has left you for another...

if your spouse has been unfaithful...

Only then could we understand what's going through Joseph's mind! ***He's devastated!***

Woman he committed his life to, has betrayed him.

This is *before* Joseph & Mary did *anything*.

People would *suspect* Joseph fathered this child

–they'd be surprised–because of his godly character.

But how else could you explain what happened?

People following small god still explain it that way.

Matt. wants *us* to understand God's perspective:

18 *"... she was found to be with child through H.S."*

Mary didn't conceive normally; ***H.S. did this!***

Joseph's perplexing dilemma: 19 *"Because Jo-*

seph her husband was a righteous man & didn't want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."

He loves Mary but *can't* ignore this!

Joseph is righteous man–reputation: fair, godly

He doesn't want to humiliate her publicly.

Unlike most people who've been betrayed, he doesn't want to *"make her pay"*

He loves her, but *he could never marry her now!*

In that culture he could have her stoned.

As *godly* man, he isn't looking out for *his* interests.

He cares about her welfare, NOT vengeance.

In counseling, I deal with cases of unfaithfulness.

It isn't easy to forgive.

It isn't easy to trust again.

That stress is greater in macho culture like theirs.

Joseph models godliness:

isn't looking out for # 1!

He's *still* concerned for *Mary's* interests.

He doesn't want to expose; make spectacle of her.

Joseph wants to walk away quietly

He thought he knew her!

He thought they shared same dreams–& ***now this!***

As he considers alternatives –messenger from God enters

2. EVIDENCE OF ANGEL'S REVELATION 20-21

*"After he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream & said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is **from H.S.** ²¹She'll give birth to a son, & you're to **give him the name Jesus**, because **he will save his people from their sins.**"*

Angel re-affirms that Joseph should marry his godly, faithful, beloved

He need not fear to marry her; he can trust her.

God's at work!

God makes Joseph active participant in His plan.

Holy Spirit created this child

Mary's chosen by God to give birth to a Son

Joseph's chosen by God to give the child His name

=>name announces God's purpose:

*"**YOU** shall call His name "Jesus"–He's the **Savior**.*

Child will save His people from their sins

3. Evidence of Scriptural affirmation 22-23

Isaiah foretells how Savior'd be born 22-23 *"All*

this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child & will give birth to a son, & they'll call him Immanuel"—which means "God with us"

Isa. 7:14 For Isaiah, birth of son (*in his generation*) is sign to Israel: *God is with us!* =>

Birth of Savior=sign to *this* generation: God is with us

2 NAMES INTRODUCED by angel:

(1) Jesus <= Yeshua => "Salvation of Yahweh"

"He'll save His people from their sins"

(2)Immanuel=>"God with us" 23

[4th evidence will convince *anyone* who's been through such disappointment:]

4. Evidence of Joseph's acceptance & trust

Joseph believes testimony of angel & God's Word;

reaffirms commitment to Mary

24-25 *"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him & took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. & he gave him the name Jesus."*

Joseph is convinced

Joseph obeys God & marries her That's faith!

Joseph obeys God & calls His name Jesus

Joseph calls Him SAVIOR

He acknowledges this One is source of salvation!

Even a fair, just person like Joseph needs a Savior!

Joseph accepts evidence; trusts God's promise; acknowledges Jesus is Savior (HIS!)

Considering evidence surrounding His birth will motivate us to trust Jesus as Savior.

Jn 1:12 "To all who received him, to those who believed in His name"

–to people who **stop trusting *our* efforts** to please God & **trust Him** Whom God sent to die in our place

–to those, "God gave right to become children of God."

Joseph acknowledges Him as "SAVIOR."

Have you responded, with Joseph, "That's what I need.

I want gift He came to give.

I'm tired of trying to do it

I need a Savior; I want God's gift of eternal life!"

Joseph's convinced!

=> Child is "**Jesus**" –**God's salvation**

Now choice is ours.

We've heard the evidence.

How will WE respond?

What will WE do with Jesus?

Joseph calls Him SAVIOR. Will you trust Him, as YOUR SAVIOR?

Will you go on with your life?

too busy to be bothered?

Or, will you trust Him as your Savior today?

You can have best gift; gift Jesus came to give us