Christmas Miracles December 8, 2019

*Matthew 1:18-25 Series: Christmas Surprises*

The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin's womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit." —Peter Larson

Intro: How the Christmas baby was almost abandoned.

1. To receive Jesus, you have to be willing to be misunderstood.
2. Joseph would face rumours throughout his life.

v. 18 *before they came together she was found to be with child*

1. Joseph would face the ruin of his reputation.

v. 19 *her husband Joseph, being a just man*

1. Joseph would carry shame when he had known honour.

v. 19 *unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly*

1 Corinthians 4:10 *We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.*

* In what ways would Joseph have been misunderstood for taking Mary as his wife?
* What did Paul mean when he said, “*We are fools for Christ’s sake*?”
* How have you been misunderstood for your faith in Jesus?

1. To receive Jesus, you have to adjust your preconceptions.
2. Some people won’t accept the supernatural.

v. 20 *an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream*

1. Some people won’t confront their fears.

v. 20 *Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife*

John 19:38 *After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission.*

1. Some people won’t accept the spiritual.

v. 20 *that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit*

* People who trust in Christ later in life often have preconceptions about Jesus and the Bible that are obstacles to their faith. Others who have grown up in the church can have preconceptions rooted in their church background or traditions. What are some of the preconceptions you’ve had to deal with?
* What were the fears that Joseph faced in taking Mary as his wife?
* Have you ever struggled to accept the virgin birth of Jesus Christ?

1. To receive Jesus, you have to give up control.
2. Joseph didn’t get to choose the name.

v. 21 *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus*

v. 25 *And he called his name Jesus.*

1. Joseph obeyed the angel with more questions than answers.

v. 24 *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him …*

1. Joseph gave up his honeymoon to follow God’s plan.

vv. 24-25 *he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son*

Matthew 2:13 *Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”*

* How would it feel to have your baby’s name chosen for you?
* How would it feel to have a forced adoption while you were still engaged?
* How would you feel entering a marriage with all of the responsibilities of a pregnancy ‘without a honeymoon?’
* What are some areas where your need for control gets in the way of what God wants to do in your life?
* Where do you most need prayer in applying this message?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Matthew 2:13-23.

Notes