

The Figures of the Nativity

Part 2 – *The Family of Jesus*

Mary – render unconditional service to God (Lk 1:26-56)

A. The angel Gabriel's visit

1. Appeared in such a way that brought f_____ and perplexity to Mary so that Mary would be assured that this was a message from God.
2. Announced that Mary would be the one who would b_____ the prophesied Christ.

B. Mary's reaction

1. The status of Mary
 - a. Was e_____ to Joseph (traditionally lasted one year)
 - b. Was a t_____ (the traditional marriageable age of Jewish females)
 - c. Was a v_____ (engaged couples lived in separate houses and abstained from intimacy)
2. The action of Mary
 - a. Mary asked a question – *How will this be since I k_____ no man* (literal translation of v. 34).
 - 1) Gabriel answered that she would conceive by the Holy S_____ (not by any man) – this fulfilled the first part of Is 7:14: *the virgin will be with child* was the sign.
 - 2) Gabriel explained that this type of conception makes the child the Son of G_____ (not of any man). – this fulfilled the second part of Is 7:14: *she will call Him Immanuel* which means God w_____ us (Jn 1:1,14).
 - 3) Gabriel announced the m_____ God performed for her relative Elizabeth who conceived even though she was well past child bearing age.
 - b. Mary surrenders herself as a bond_____ of the Lord for Him to use her in this way (v. 38)

C. Application

1. Have you surrendered your life to the Lord?
 - a. If no, what are you waiting for?
 - b. If yes, are you daily serving the Lord without conditions?
2. All Christians learn lessons from God
 - a. Sometimes we have to learn the h_____ way.
 - b. Sometimes we learn through our s_____.
 - c. Which of the above (a or b) does God prefer you to learn by?
3. God s_____ believers to live a life of obedience (2 Chr 16:9).

Joseph – honor your relationship with God (Matt 1:18-25)

- A. The character of Joseph – a r_____ man (v. 19)
1. Traditional Jews used this term to refer to those who kept the Jewish l_____ (including the ones handed down by Rabbis).
 2. Matthew uses this term to refer to a right r_____ with God.
 - a. The Pharisees b_____ of their ability to keep the laws.
 - b. Jesus said that the Pharisees were c_____ by God (Matt 23:27,28)
- B. The reaction of Joseph to Mary's pregnancy (she was f_____ to be with child by the Holy Spirit (v. 18))
1. Joseph assumed that Mary violated her vow of abstinence.
 - a. He planned to privately end the engagement rather than p_____ humiliate Mary.
 - b. He was not r_____ but pondered his actions.
 2. An angel spoke to Joseph in a d_____.
 - a. Commanded him to take Mary to be his w_____
 - b. Communicated that Mary c_____ the child by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Explained that the child would save God's people from their s_____.
 3. Joseph got up and obeyed
 - a. He took Mary as his w_____
 - b. He kept her a v_____ until Jesus was born (fulfilling Is 7:14)
 - c. He called the child's name, J_____
- C. Application
1. Righteousness does not come by the good things we do but by a right r_____ with God.
 - a. American society expects a level of goodness among people
 1. H_____ (e.g. self-pay road-side stands)
 2. F_____ among married couples
 3. C_____ among drivers.
 - b. Our righteousness is only found in C_____ (2 Cor 5:21)
 2. Our relationship to the Lord is more important than all other relationships.
 - a. Relationships d_____ when we put them above our relationship to the Lord (God created us and gives us direction in how to live in relationship to others).
 - b. How are you honoring God in your relationships?
 1. Marriage (Eph 5)
 2. Dating – don't let feelings be your guide
 3. Friendships – don't give in to peer pressure