

The Mystery of the Nativity: Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

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 the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.¹

Joseph was caught between disappointment and dilemma (18-19)

Joseph was reassured by God’s direction (20-23)

Joseph obeyed God’s instruction (24-25)

*When you face a disappointment or a dilemma,
listen for God’s instruction, and then obey it . . . whatever the cost*

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984