

MAKING PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS

Matthew 1:18-25

Introduction:

1. In your Christmas plans, where is Jesus on your shopping list?
2. In our commercialized world, would Jesus have been exchanged for the love of money, which is the root of all evil (I Tim. 6:10)?
3. Christmas originated in the mind and heart of the triune Godhead as God's plan to redeem a fallen world back to Himself as we see in the following Scriptures.
4. Isaiah 7:14 – ***Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel.***
5. Isaiah 9:6-7 – ***For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.***
6. Galatians 4:4-5 – ***But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.***

I. (vv. 18-19) THE UNIQUE PLAN OF GOD.

1. (v. 18) This is a once in world history miracle.
 - A. The Jewish betrothal was a binding arrangement by Jewish parents between a man and woman for approximately 1 year.
 - B. The betrothal was as binding as Jewish marriages, only without physical union or living together.
 - C. During the protected betrothal, the man was preparing living quarters for his wife, and upon the groom's father's approval of completion of the living quarters, the wedding would take place.
 - D. This is how God protected the virgin birth and violation of virginity was either punishable by private divorce or by stoning the wife-to-be for unfaithfulness.
 - E. The groom made the choice as to which option would be taken.
2. (v. 19) Joseph became the once in world history miracle man.
 - A. Joseph chose the least harsh option assuming Mary was unfaithful.
 - B. What do you choose when others have offended you?
 - C. Joseph's choice proved he was a man of integrity by seeking to have their betrothal annulled.

II. (vv. 20-23) THE UNUSUAL REVELATION OF GOD.

1. (v. 20) Joseph received a once in world history revelation.
 - A. This revelation from God was first one of peace to Joseph.
 - 1) Joseph now receives God's perspective on the unusual.
 - 2) Do you pray and seek God's perspective on your unusuals?
 - B. This revelation was then one of purity concerning Mary.
 - 1) Joseph now had to make a choice as to whether he would believe the god of science or rely on scientific normality.
 - 2) Joseph had to decide as to whether he would believe God and be willing to face society's criticism.
2. (vv. 21-23) God unfolds to Joseph the one-time Biblical revelation.
 - A. Micah 5:2 – ***But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.***
 - B. Revelation 13:8 – ***All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

III. (vv. 24-25) THE UNUSUAL OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

1. (v. 24) Joseph was obedient to God.
 - A. Joseph's obedience to God's revelation was immediate. Is yours?
 - B. I Samuel 15:22 – ***So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.***
2. (v. 25) Joseph obeyed the moral commandment of God.
 - A. His fleshly desires were placed under the lordship of God.
 - B. Hebrews 13:4 – ***Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.***

Conclusion:

Always seek God first in your plans, then you can claim His promise in Matthew 6:33.