



Matthew Chapter 1:18-25 - Questions

Joseph

We are stepping away from Luke for a week in order to not miss a detail of the Christmas story. Matthew tells us the story of when Joseph learned of Mary's pregnancy, Luke does not.

It's sweet and a little sad to watch these two young lovers grappling with the reality of an impossible and probably humiliating situation not of their own making, isn't it?

Mary and Joseph have been asked to believe the impossible. Mary deals with the news first for 3 months as she stays with Elizabeth. She returns to her home to tell Joseph and face the unbelieving stares of her family and neighbors.

What will Joseph do as he is at first shocked and then heart-broken to hear that Mary is pregnant?

1. (:18) Why did the Lord make sure Matthew included the words "before they came together" in this verse? How significant is this detail in the salvation of people's souls?
2. (:18) Had any other baby in history been fathered by the Holy Spirit (God Himself)?
3. What name of Jesus stems from this fact?
4. (:19) What was Joseph's first thought as he tried to figure out what to do about Mary's out-of-wedlock pregnancy?
5. (:20-21) What changed Joseph's mind?
6. What other proof did Joseph have that Mary didn't do anything wrong?



7. (:20) Why does the angel call him “Joseph, son of David” ?
8. Do you think the fact that Joseph knew he was a “son of David” helped him in any way to accept the angel’s words?
9. (:21) Just like Zechariah, Joseph was directly given a name for the child. What was the name to be?
10. Why “Jesus”? What does “Jesus” mean?
11. (:22-23) What prophet spoke these words?
12. Why does the prophecy say His name would be “Immanuel”, but the angel told Joseph to name Him “Jesus”?
13. (:24) Had Joseph been sleeping all this time the angel was speaking to him?
14. (:25) What did Joseph do as a result of this visit from the angel? What does that prove to us?

If I could just ask God a question...



Why is it so important that no other person on earth, besides Jesus, has ever been or will ever be physically fathered by the Holy Spirit (God)? Why is Jesus called “the only begotten Son of God”?

Can you begin to find answer to this question in these passages? Do you know any other scripture which might help?