

LOVE RESPONDS
--MATTHEW 1:18-25--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we continue our chronological study of the incarnation of Jesus Christ as we go through the weeks of advent. The first week we saw hope renewed as God stepped into history after a 400-year silence and told an aged priest that his wife was going to have a son who would herald the coming Messiah. Hope was renewed that God would keep His promise to send the Messiah. Last week we saw the peace of God revealed through the faith of young girl, a virgin, when she received the news that she would be the mother of the Son of God. The peace from her surrender prepares her to bear the Prince of peace.

This morning we lit the candle of love, and that is the theme of my message. The love of a man as he responds to this young woman, and the love of God not only for this young couple, but also for the whole of mankind as He sends His Son to be the Savior of the world.

- I. LOVE'S DILEMMAS (Matthew 1:18-19)
- a. The purpose of this passage is to confirm the virgin birth and explain Joseph's _____ of Jesus as his son.
 - b. The first is the dilemma of _____.
 - c. The first half of Matthew 1 is the genealogy of _____ through the descendants of David who were in the royal lineage. (Jeremiah 22:30)
 - d. The second dilemma relates to the first and was _____ dilemma.
 - e. Matthew tells us in verse 18 that before Joseph and Mary came together as husband and wife, Mary was found to be with _____ through the Holy Spirit.
 - f. Joseph was torn between _____ and _____, his love for his betrothed wife and his duty to the Law of Moses.
 - g. Joseph's response was prompted by his _____ for Mary and his devotion to God.

- h. Here are two dilemma's that seem impossible to solve, let's see how God in _____ intervenes in both to bring about an answer.

- II. GOD RESPONDS IN LOVE TO JOSEPH (Matthew 1:20-23)
- a. Mary had completely _____ herself to God and was willing to have God's will done in her life just as Gabriel had told her.
 - b. We are told that after Joseph had considered divorcing Mary quietly, he was visited by the _____ of the Lord in a dream with a message from God.
 - c. Matthew then gives us the prophecy of _____ that was being fulfilled. (Isaiah 7:14)
- III. LOVE RESOLVES THE DILEMMAS (Matthew 1:24-25)
- a. Matthew reveals a little bit more about Joseph's character and faith by his _____ upon waking up from his dream.
 - b. Joseph's dilemma was resolved by receiving a _____ from God that he could take Mary as his wife.
 - c. At the same time, we see the first dilemma resolved by the _____ of the virgin birth.
 - d. One condition still had to be met, the prophets of Israel prophesied that the _____ would be a direct descendant of David. (Luke 3:23-38)

CONCLUSION:

To summarize the truth we learned this morning:

- (1) Jesus was a direct descendant of Mary, and therefore a direct descendant of David.
- (2) In Jesus, God's promise to David (that he would have a Son to sit upon his throne) is fulfilled.
- (3) Jesus was the legal son of Joseph and thereby inherited the legal right to sit on the throne of David. However, Jesus was NOT the biological son of Joseph, and thereby escaped the curse of Jeconiah.

This was all made possible by the miraculous virgin birth of the Son of God. The virgin birth is not an option to be considered, but a truth to be believed. It is an essential part of the redemptive story.

This part of the chronological history of the incarnation of Jesus Christ is vital in confirming Him as the Messiah. In this event we see God's great love and God's great design to bring together all of the right pieces at the right time so that you and I two thousand years later can have a Savior, can be justified before God through the death, burial, and resurrection of Immanuel, God with us. Truly this history is "Love's Response."