

Table Talk:

1. If you were Joseph, would you have stayed with your pregnant girlfriend when you knew you weren't the birth father?
2. Why didn't he divorce her? (Matthew 1:18-25)
3. Why was it important for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem? (Micah 5:2)
4. Of the 4 things Jesus gave up in the incarnation, which one do you think was hardest on Him? Why?
5. Why were Mary and Joseph's actions a "gift" to us?
6. What is something you have to "trust" God for this Christmas season?



Part 1: Seriously Dad...God Told Me! *Luke 2:1-7*

December 14, 2008

What would you have done? Your girlfriend is pregnant, you are engaged, and God tells you in a dream that she is carrying the future Messiah of Israel! Joseph shows incredible faith as he embarks on a journey with his full term, teenage bride. He not only obeys God but fulfills Scripture.

I. The Background Recorded

A. The Plan (v. 1-3)

¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

B. The Place (v. 4-5a)

⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵in order to register

C. The Prophecies

God had promised that the Savior would be...

1. A human...not an angel (Gen. 3:15; Heb. 2:16)
2. A Jew...not a Gentile (Gen. 12:1–3; Num. 24:17)
3. He would be from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)
4. The family of David (2 Sam. 7:1–17)
5. Born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14)
6. In Bethlehem...the city of David (Micah 5:2)

D. The Problem (v. 5b-7)

along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

II. The Birth Revisited

A. Jesus was born in **poverty** not privilege.

B. The incarnation is permanent. It represents a change in His...

1. **Dwelling place**... from heaven to earth (John 6:51; 16:28)
2. **Possessions**... from riches to poverty (II Cor. 8:9; Luke 2:7; 9:58)
3. **Glory**... from heavenly glory to obscurity (John 17:5)
4. **Position**... from equality with God in form to servanthood (Phil. 2:6-7; Mark 10:45; John 14:28)

C. His plan for you has a **promise**!