Discovering Christmas Truths

Encouraging Christmas Messages by Dr. Joe K. Taylor

Name Him Jesus!

Joseph's Story

1. The Person

Matthew 1:18a, 19a, NLT – [18a] *This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to* Joseph… [19a] *Joseph, to whom she was engaged,* was a righteous man….

2. The Pregnancy

Matthew 1:18b, NLT – [18b] *But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin,* she became pregnant *through the power of the Holy Spirit.* [19] *Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.*

> He was tough when he could have been weak.
> He was tender when he could have been harsh.
> He was thoughtful when he could have been hasty.
> He was trusting when he could have doubted.
> He was temperate when he could have indulged himself.
> *- C. T. Studd*

3. The Prophecy

Matthew 1:20–23, NLT - [20] *As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.* [21] *And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* [22] *All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:* [23] *"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"*

4. The Plan

Matthew 1:24-25a, NLT - [24] *When Joseph woke up,* he did as the angel of the Lord commanded *and took Mary as his wife.* [25] *But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born….*

> **Every step Joseph takes testifies to his greatness:**
> A. By marrying her quickly he broke all Jewish custom, but he protected Mary's life and reputation.
> B. By keeping her a virgin until Jesus was born, he protected the miracle of Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit. *Christ was the "God-man!"*
> C. By naming the baby he exercised a father's prerogative and thus officially took him into his family as his own legal son.

5. The Proclamation

Matthew 1:25b, NLT – [25b] *…And Joseph named him* Jesus.

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A. Following God will not always be easy.
B. Expect your best made plans to be interrupted by God.
C. Try to get God's take on the interruption—He may be up to something.
D. When dreams become nightmares, remember God is always there.
E. Remember, ***His name is Jesus!***

Jesus—*His personal name*—is the Greek (Ἰησοῦς) equivalent of the Hebrew (יְהוֹשׁוּעַ) "Jeshua" (or "Joshua") meaning "Savior." **Christ**, meaning "the anointed one," is a title that acknowledged that He was the expected Messiah of Israel.
Immanuel (Heb. עִמָּנוּ אֵל) meaning "God with us" (lit., *with us is God*).