

What shakes you now can strengthen you later.

Matthew 1:18-25 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

#### Indicators of Joseph and Mary

- Both were betrothed – 1:18a *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,*
  - Betrothed: Legally pledged to be married.
- Both were surprised – 1:18b-20a *before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man*

and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things...

- Later, after Jesus' birth: Luke 2:19 *But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*
  - It's ok to process what shakes you but make sure that your processor is running the right program.
  - What shakes you now can strengthen you later.
- Both responded in obedience – 1:20-25 *But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* <sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*
    - Obedience today can transform your life (Repent and shift your confidence from yourself to Jesus Christ).
    - Obedience today can begin the healing process (Straying Christian, return to Jesus Christ)
    - Long-lasting peace always follows a track record of obedience.

Q: What's your next step?