

# UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS

## Part Two: Not Your Average Joe

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**MATTHEW 1:18-25** *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

*God reserves the right to do the unexpected, the unique, and the surprising in your life. – Charlie Dates*

**QUESTION:** Are you **happy** for Jesus to show up in your life and exercise his sovereign authority so that your plans get flipped upside down?

**MATTHEW 1:18** *His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was **found to be pregnant** through the Holy Spirit.*

### UNDERSTANDABLE EMOTIONS

- Anger
- Heartbroken
- Jealous
- Disillusioned
- Resentful
- Rejected
- Disrespected
- Betrayed

### UNDERSTANDABLE ACTIONS

- Have a blowout argument.
- Try to make her feel shame and regret.
- Divorce her publicly.

**MATTHEW 1:19** *Because Joseph her husband was **faithful to the law**, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

Our spiritual maturity will never outpace our **EMOTIONAL** maturity.

We must understand the difference between **DISCERNMENT** and judgment.

<b>DISCERNMENT</b>	<b>JUDGMENT</b>
That is wrong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It violates love for you.</li><li>• It violates love for others (including me).</li><li>• It violates love for Jesus.</li></ul>	That is wrong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I'm above you.</li><li>• I'm afraid of you.</li><li>• I don't love you.</li></ul>

**MATTHEW 1:20** *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

#### **UNDERSTANDABLE FEAR**

- Sticky suspicion
  - Community
  - Friends
  - Her family
  - His family

**MATTHEW 1:21-25** *"She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name** Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place **to fulfill** what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But **he did not consummate their marriage** until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

**MATTHEW 1:21,23** *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins...and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*