

The Provision Of A Saviour

— THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS! —

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

PROCLAMATION TO MARY AND JOSEPH

1. Pregnancy can sometimes come as a surprise, or as an answered prayer to parents. Either way, there would have been an expectation of great ___ to have you born.

When it came to the birth of Jesus Christ, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. When Mary was conceived with Jesus, it was a miraculous conception because Joseph, Mary's engaged husband-to-be, had no part in the conception of the child in Mary's womb.

The news by angel G _____ was altogether strange to Mary because she was not yet married.

Romans 5:12

²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

2. Do you remember what the meaning of Jesus is? (Matthew 1:21)

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3. What was Mary afraid of?

- ☐ She had a baby in her womb
- ☐ Gabriel's sudden and unusual salutation
- ☐ Joseph would leave her

4. How should we explain when others ask how Mary conceive Jesus?

Romans 5:12

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible. ³⁸ And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

5. In the passage above,

- (i) underline Mary's response to the news that she had conceived a son
- (ii) highlight Gabriel's encouragement to Mary

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6. What does “handmaid” mean? Fill in the blanks below using the helping words below:

servitude | Mary | servant | authority | submitted | sinners | impossible

It means _____ of the Lord. Mary acknowledged.

Mary did not have the _____ to tell God what to do and what not to do.

She wanted to do God’s will - and God’s will was that she would bear the Son of God, Jesus, as part of God’s plan to save _____, including _____. So she said, I am thy servant. “Behold the handmaid of the LORD, be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38). This response shows that Mary was filled with humility and _____ - the willingness to serve and do God’s will.

There might have been lots of uncertainties and fears in her heart, but she quieten down those thoughts immediately and _____ herself to be used by the LORD for his purpose: “be it unto me according to thy word”.

Such a response is possible because “with God nothing shall be _____.”

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Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. ²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: ²⁵ And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

7. How do we know Joseph did not believe that Mary with child of the Holy Ghost?

- ☐ Joseph was very angry and decided to humiliate Mary by publicly shaming her
- ☐ Joseph was not willing to embarrass her and decided to call off the marriage quietly

8. Write down the phrase in this passage which tells us that Joseph was not rash in his decision:

9. Write down the phrase in this passage which tells us Joseph's obedience after Gabriel appeared and explained to Joseph in a dream:

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PLACE OF BIRTH: BETHLEHEM

10. If you remember, Joseph and Mary were in a Galilean town called _____. But the prophecies of Jesus' birth tell us Jesus must be in _____!

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

11. How did God move Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem? Fill in the blanks below with the words below:

David | Augustus | Roman | taxed | Caesar | Judah

God moved the heart of the _____ emperor, _____, to decree that all the world should be _____. Everyone had to go back to their home cities to pay their taxes! If both Joseph and Mary were of the house of _____, their home city would have been in _____, near Jerusalem. There was a city of David called Bethlehem.

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PROCLAMATION TO THE SHEPHERDS

12. What is a manger?

- ☐ A place where farm animals are kept
- ☐ A rack where food for farm animals is placed
- ☐ A cot where babies are rocked to sleep

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

13. What is the threefold message that the angels declared to the Shepherds, and describe what each message meant?

(i)

(ii)

(iii)
