

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Marty Grubbs, Senior Pastor



Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs, continued in our Advent series as he looked at the promise of a son being born to a virgin to save all the people. When it came time to fulfill this promise, the virgin God had chosen, Mary, was betrothed to someone already, meaning she was already committed in marriage by everything but the ceremony. The news of your fiancé being pregnant with someone else's child would never be good news unless ... unless you knew the promise from hundreds of years earlier, and an angel of the Lord appeared to confirm this child was from the Holy Spirit and would be the One the world had been waiting for. This is what Joseph faced. He was righteous; he was faithful to the law. He was rewarded by being the earthly father of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.

SCRIPTURE

MICAH 5:2-5 NRSV

ISAIAH 7:14

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸ 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. 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.

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. ²¹ 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."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

LUKE 2:24-27

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged

to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:20-25 and Luke 2:4-7. What was promised in Isaiah, and how was that fulfilled in the Gospels?
3. From the passages in the gospels, describe Joseph.
4. Put yourself in the place of Joseph, what would have been your reaction to this news?
5. What convinced Joseph to go through with the marriage to Mary?
6. What would it take for your faith to be as strong as Joseph's? What's holding you back?
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for the promises he made and his faithfulness to fulfill them in his time. Ask him to show you these fulfillments in your own life, and ask him for deeper faith to guide your decisions.