**Matthew 1:18-25**

***The Right To Be Our Savior***

Introduction

1. In Matthew 1:1-17 as Joseph’s adopted son, Jesus would have the legal right to the throne of David. If there was a king in Israel from the line of David at the time of Christ’s birth, it would have been Joseph. Upon the death of Joseph, Jesus would have taken his place.

2. Since Matthew was written to the Jew, in 1:16 the virgin birth is implied and introduced. In Matthew 1:18-25 the question is raised: does Jesus have the right to be our Savior?

3. If Jesus were conceived and born just as any baby, then He could not be God. If He were not God, He would not be worthy to be our Savior.

Does Jesus have the right to be our Savior? Yes, Jesus is God in the flesh.

**I. GOD’S PARTICIPANTS 1:18, 19**

 ***A. His Mother*** *When Mary the mother of Jesus*

Here is the way it happened. Unless we have a revelation from God, all other suggestions

 are mere speculation. Who is this man? Where is He from?

1. *Espoused…Mary His mother was espoused to Joseph*. It was a betrothal period of about one year. It was not like our engagement period. It involved a ceremony and could not be broken except by death or divorce. The man and woman had no physical relations. They did not live together.
2. *Before they came together…*they had not sexual relations.
3. *She was found with child…*Mary was going to have a baby, and it was not from Joseph.

 Who is the father? Speculations:

 \*In the 6th and 11th century Jewish writers suggest He is the son of a Roman soldier, and also in the book: *The Christian Understanding of God*.

 \*Jewish tradition says He was an illegitimate child of Jocquinin, a neighbor of Mary and Joseph.

 \**The Passover Plot* by Schoenfield believes Mary and Joseph just thought Jesus was the Messiah.

 **4.** *Of the Holy Spirit…*this is revelation. Don’t miss this or you will have to speculate.

 I don’t object to someone saying, *I don’t believe in the virgin birth.* I do object to

 anyone saying, *The Bible doesn’t teach the virgin birth.*

 *\**I don’t think any preacher should deny the Virgin Birth. **Without it you have no**

 **Savior.**

 **\***Don’t fall into the trap of reason. It’s not logical or it just couldn’t happen. Man is

 too small!

 ***B. Her Man*** *Then Joseph her husband…*

**1. His Righteousness…***being a just man (he had to do something.)*

**2. His Rights…***not willing to make her a public example.*

 *\**If a betrothed woman became pregnant, it was considered adultery. According to

 (Deut. 22:23, 24) those guilty were to be stoned.

 \*Stoning was abolished. There were two options: 1) Institute a law suit against Mary

 exposing her to public disgrace. 2) He could enact a private bill of divorcement,

 dismissing her quietly.

**3. His Road…***putting her away quietly*

 I wonder if Mary told him of Gabriel’s visit. *Could it be so? The Law said…*He knows what

 he must do.

**II. GOD’S PRONOUNCEMENT 1:20-23**

What is it going to take to override the Law and change his mind?

1. ***Assuring Presence 20***
2. *While he thought on these things…*perhaps more than just how he was going to dissolve the betrothal. No doubt Mary’s account was tossed in to the thinking process.
3. *Behold an angel sent from the Lord appeared in a dream…*To a Jew a message brought by angels was unquestionably authoritative. The angel imparts to him the message already given to Mary (Lk. 1:35).
4. *Joseph…son of David* is a supernatural acknowledgment of the preceding genealogy.
5. *Fear not…for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.* This is the assurance. That’s what he wanted to hear!!

 *\**The bloodline is not from the woman, but from the man.Strictly speaking, Jesus is not a Jew! His blood line was divine!

 *\*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.* His blood was worthy. His blood was adequate to pay for the sins of the world.

 *\*There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel’s veins and sinners plunged beneath that flood to lose all their guilty stains.*

***B. Assuring Plan 21, 23b***

**1. Our Savior 21**

 **\****She shall bring forth a son…Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sin.*

 *\*You shall call…*Joseph was to take part in the naming. This was a sign of acceptance.

 This was a sign of sonship.

 \*The One coming was the Messiah. Jesus took on a body to pay for your sins and mine.

 \**Jesus* is His saving name. ***He*** is emphatic. ***He*** Is the One who will save!

 He makes all things new: new heart…new lives…new homes…new day…new hope.

 There have been many great men who could do a lot: Ab. Lincoln, Buddha, Jonas

 Salk, Pasteur, Mohammed…only Jesus can touch and transform lives and remake the

 human heart!

 **2. Our Sovereign 23b**

*They shall call His name (speaks of His character) Immanuel…God with us!*

 *\**This man must be God with us before He can save His people from their sin. He

 cannot be God with us unless He is born of a virgin. The reason they call Him Jesus,

 our Savior is because He is God in the flesh!

 \*In times past God revealed Himself in various forms: *flaming sword at the gate of*

 *Eden…Burning bush in the desert before Moses…in the thunder and lightning on Mt.*

 *Sinai…in the Shekinah glory above the mercy seat in the Tabernacle…in a pillar of*

 *cloud by day and a fire by night leading the children of Israel.*

 *\**Now He has bridged the gulf. **God became man! God with us!** Think of it: He

 knows the dull, drab, drudgery of living. He was so poor He had no place to lay His

 head. He experienced hunger, thirst, weariness from exhaustion. He was maligned,

 misunderstood, mistreated. If there was a death in a home it brought tears to His eyes.

 The crippled, blind and hurting moved His heart with compassion.

 \**God with us: Lo, I am with you always.* The only way God could be with us is to

 be born of a virgin.

 ***C. Assuring Prophecy 22, 23***

The Messiah must fulfill prophecy. *Now this was done…22*

1. *Behold the virgin will conceive…*the translation cannot be *young woman.*

 *\**In Isaiah 7:11 *Ask for a sign…this will be the sign: a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son. (Is. 7:14)*

 *\****That’s impossible! That’s the sign!** For a young woman to have a son would not be unusual, but for a virgin to conceive and have a son…that’s impossible!

 *\**Between 200-400 b.c. 72 Hebrew scholars translated the Old Testament into Greek. It was called *The Spetuagint. Virgin* was translated: *parthenos*. The word was understood as *virgin* not *young woman. Parthenos* is never used to mean *young woman.*

 \*The Old Testament said this was to be the calling card of the Messiah: *The virgin will conceive and bring forth a son…the Messiah!!*

**III. GOD’S PROVISION 1:24, 25**

Joseph having gotten up did exactly what the angel directed.

1. ***His Compliance…****He took Mary home with him.*
2. He must have believed Mary and the angel’s report or a righteous man, a devout Jew would

 never have married her.

1. He would never take her into his home.
2. ***His Consecration 25***
3. *He knew her not til she brought forth her first born son.* Joseph had no physical relations with Mary until after Jesus was born. Mary was not a perpetual virgin. Her first born son implies she had other sons.
4. **Jesus was born of a virgin!**
5. ***His Cooperation*** *He called His name Jesus…*Joseph accepted Jesus as his legal, adopted son.

Does Jesus have the right to be our Savior? **Jesus is God in the flesh.** He must be born of a virgin.

***No man ever lived as He lived.* No man ever died as He died, and then rose from the grave!**