

Sermon series: '**Come Behold The Wondrous
Mystery**'

Sermon title: **Joseph and Mary**

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38

December 3, 2017

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Today we are beginning our Christmas series.

We are simply going to take a look at the 'Christmas' passages that many of us have heard read during the season and see what God has to say to us from the Bible.

Let's **pray** together before we open up the text.

Read [\[Matthew 1:18-25\]](#)

Read [\[Luke 1:26-38\]](#)

As I have read these passages over and over this past week, what has stood out to me is this:

How ordinary Joseph and Mary are and....

How unordinary Jesus' birth was.

They were very common.

Jesus' birth was uncommon.

They were just normal people.
Their baby was abnormal.

{you may be thinking that about your own child}

Joseph was a simple carpenter we know and he was engaged to this young woman named Mary.

They likely had some dreams for their lives.
They had some plans for sure for their life together.

And all of that changes in an instant doesn't it.

They didn't ask for the changes.
They weren't sitting around (as far as we know) praying for God to do something great with their lives or for God to 'use' them somehow.

Not something they asked for.

What stated out as the beginning of a life together turns pretty ugly when God breaks into their life.

All of a sudden....an unwed pregnancy, followed by a plan to call off the engagement quietly....a divorce at that time.

His plan breaks into their plan.

Their natural, ordinary, common life is disrupted by the supernatural intervention of God...unexpectedly and not asked for.

The birth of Jesus Christ is supernatural.

That is the main point of these passages.
That is what we are meant to see.

In fact there are 4 ways that the Bible shows that this is no ordinary baby and no ordinary birth.

The first one is the fact that angels show up.

I. The appearance of angels.

Now, raise your hand if an angel of God appeared to you to announce your child's birth!

No hands i am sure.

But this is significant because supernatural beings who dwell in the presence of God...who are God's messengers don't show up on earth very often in the Bible and when they do...it's a big deal.

Mary actually is visited we are told by an angel named *Gabriel*, who every Jew would have recognized from the book of Daniel, chapters 8 and 9.

When Daniel encounters him...he falls down like a dead man in terror.

This same Gabriel appeared to Zachariah, to announce John the Baptists birth and he said "I am Gabriel and I stand in the presence of God."

That's no small thing.

Joseph is spoken to in a dream by an angel and told not to divorce Mary.

The realm of heaven has broken into the realm of earth. God has personally sent his messengers to announce the birth of Jesus- testifying to his supernatural birth.

This is no ordinary baby.

The appearance of angels proves that.

Secondly, Jesus' birth is a fulfillment of prophecy from the Old Testament.

II. The fulfillment of prophecy.

Matthew's gospel says in chapter 1 verse 22 that Jesus' birth is a fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14**.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, (which means, God with us)."

500 years before the birth of Jesus, we have this precise prophecy that God would dwell among men..by being born of a virgin.

Luke's gospel says that the angel Gabriel said to Mary in chapter 1 verse 32 that Jesus' **“will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

This is referring to 1 Chronicles 17:11-14 where God says to David...that he will raise up a king after him who will be a son to him and that his kingdom will be forever and his throne will be established forever.

Mary and Joseph would have known these verses as referring to the Messiah they were waiting for.

So, angels appear to announce his birth.
Prophecies are fulfilled.
This is a supernatural birth.

Thirdly, the titles that the angels give to this child are quite unusual.

III. The unusual titles given to this baby.

The angels announce that he is to be given the name Jesus. This is the English name Joshua.

It means, 'God saves.'

“You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Many kids in Israel would have been called this name, but this child would embody or put a face to this name.

He would *actually* die on a cross someday to pay the penalty for sinners.

Listen to all of the names and titles given to the baby in these passages:

Jesus- God saves

Immanuel- God with us.

Son of the Most High

Son of God

Holy- from the Holy Spirit

a **King-** he will reign forever

This is no ordinary baby.

This is God with us.

God in human flesh.

Come Behold the wondrous mystery.

Angels announced it.

Old Testament Prophecies are fulfilled.

Names and titles are given to this baby that say he is from heaven.

And lastly...the way he was born is unique.
In fact, he is the only baby ever to be born this way.

IV. Virgin birth.

A supernatural kind of conception....

Not a man and a woman.

Not a god and a woman like happened in Greek mythology.

Not God and Mary reproducing.

Not a heavenly in vitro fertilization.

It's a mystery.

The scripture says, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you: therefore the child to be born will be called holy— Son of God.”**

The Bible makes the point again and again.....she is a virgin.

Joseph hadn't touched her.

How can this be?

It's a mystery and it's supernatural. We believe it by faith.

There is no scientific explanation.

The incarnation is a miracle.

It's a one of a kind because Jesus is one of a kind.

He is holy. We are unholy.

He is from heaven. We are from earth.

He is perfect. We are sinners.

He is God in human flesh. We are of flesh.

He is the creator. We are creatures.

The virgin birth is a big deal.

It had to happen this way.

Why?

Why did Jesus have to be born a virgin?

Jesus had to have a true human nature and a true divine nature.

If he would have had a human dad, he would be fully human and would have a sin nature.

The line of descent from Adam was partially interrupted by not having a human father.

If he had a sin nature, he would be a sinn-**ER**.

If he was a sinner, he couldn't be our savior.

He needed to be sinless. He needed to be perfect.
A sinner couldn't die for a sinner.

A person cannot walk into a shop and pay someones debt for them...if he also owes a debt.

Jesus couldn't walk to the cross and bear our sins on it...to bear the wrath of God....if he was also deserving of wrath.

Jesus can only give to us his righteousness...so that God accepts us....if he **IS** righteous.

He wouldn't have been righteous if Joseph was his dad.

He would have been just like you and me. In NEED of a Savior.

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery.....

The mystery of God dwelling among men...

The mystery of Jesus being born in the likeness of men to die for sinners.

This is the Christmas story.

He is Jesus the Savior.

Immanuel, God with us.

Holy

Son of God.

Do you believe this?

As I close, I want to point out 2 phrases that show up in these passages.

2 phrases.

Do not be afraid and **Nothing will be impossible with God.**

1. **Do not be afraid.**

To Joseph and to Mary this was spoken.
I think it is significant.

God broke into their lives and their plans with HIS
PLAN.

And the words they need to hear were ‘Do not be afraid.’

Maybe in some way God has been working in your life
and breaking into your plans.

Don’t be afraid.

Just do what Joseph and Mary both did.

Obey God.

Submit to his plan.

2. **“For nothing will be impossible with God”**

Let that give you hope today.

Maybe some of you are facing impossible odds,
impossible circumstances.

Things just don’t make sense.

You can trust God.

