

# CHRISTMAS

## THROUGH THE EYES OF...

### Joseph

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. **20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

**22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

**24** Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, **25** and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

POINT: Joseph cultivated a heart of listening to God.

“Jesus has never said anything that was not important. Listening to God requires making time for Him.” –Charles Stanley

#### **1. A Listening Heart Begins with Righteousness (vs. 18-21)**

POINT: Joseph was a righteous man who loved God and loved Mary.

POINT: You will never hear from God without a heart for God.

*“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.” Psalm 66:18*

TRUTH: If we do not listen to God, He chooses not to listen to us.

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8*

#### **2. A Listening Heart Sees Who Christ Really Is (vs. 21-23)**

*Jesus: Jehovah Will Save*

*Immanuel: God With Us*

POINT: Christ has come down with us to save us.

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*

“That moment He came to earth He was a king. As soon as His eye greeted the sunshine He was a king. From the moment His little hands grasped anything, they grasped a scepter. As soon as His pulse beat and His blood began to flow, His heart beat royally. His blood flowed in a kingly current. He was born a king.” –Charles Spurgeon

### **3. A Listening Heart Obeys Christ Immediately (vs. 24-25)**

*“...faith without works is dead.” James 2:27*

*“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” James 4:17*

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22*

POINT: Listening begins with Lordship.