



Series: Majesty in a Manger
Passage Matthew 1:18-25
Title: The Divine Conception
Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper– 12/22/2019

Discussion Starter

We serve an infinite God. God brought our messiah to us through humble people under humble circumstances. How do the people and circumstances surrounding the Messiah's birth reflect the things that God values. See Isaiah 55:8-9.

God's Plan Always Exceeds and Refines Our Expectations

- Joseph was a "just man". What was Joseph's initial plan for his marriage? How are his thoughts related to the dissolution of his marriage an indication of his character? (Verse 19).
- An angel of the Lord came to Joseph. How did the angel address Joseph? Joseph's father's name was Jacob – why did the angel call him "son of David"? What instructions did the angel give to Joseph?(verse 20)

The Virgin Birth Confirms Jesus' Divinity and Humanity

- Why must the Messiah have been conceived by the Holy Spirit and not man? See Romans 5:12-15, 1 Corinthians 15:45.
- How does Paul describe the differences between Adam and Jesus? Why is this important? How does this description relate to both the divine and human nature of Jesus?
- What does the name "Jesus" mean in Hebrew? What did the angel say Jesus' mission is to be? (Verse 21)
- What did first century Jew's believe to be the purpose of Messiah? How is this different than his actual mission? How might we apply this difference to our thinking about our relationship with Jesus?

God's Will is Affirmed by God's Word

- Joseph had to decide whether the vision of the angel was an actual message from God or just a dream. How should we apply 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to this type of decision making?
- Read Isaiah 7:14. Why does Matthew quote this verse? How might have Joseph applied this verse to his own situation?
- Consider the cultural pressure Joseph was probably experiencing related to his marriage to Mary. How did Joseph respond to the angel's message? How do we respond to God's instruction to us through scripture?