



**Series:** The Gifts of Christmas

**Passage:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Title:** The Gift of Salvation

**Speaker:** Pastor JC Cooper, 12/22/2024

**Discussion Starter** – Have you ever openly and honestly been endeavoring to follow and obey God and found yourself in a humiliating or possibly compromised situation? Where do you turn for support? Upon what authority do you assert your innocence or define your shortcomings?

### **Read Matthew 1:18-21**

1. Describe relationship and level of commitment that can be inferred between Joseph and Mary when we read, they were betrothed.
2. How many ways does Matthew make it very clear that Mary was a virgin and was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit?
3. What social cost were Joseph and Mary facing because of this unplanned pregnancy? What different consequences might they have been subject to? For how long?
4. Jesus taught us to pray, “do not lead us into testing, but keep us safe from evil”. How was this event a test for Joseph? What options did he have?
5. What was Joseph doing when he received direction from God, (verse 20)?
  - a. Describe a time when you have faced a choice between your honor or reputation and submission to God’s will. How much thought and prayer did you invest in your decision?
  - b. Joseph was not given a comprehensive lesson on God’s plan for his family. Are you able to obey God’s word by faith even when you aren’t offered relief from difficult circumstances?
6. Why was the angel so adamant that the baby be named Yeshua? (Read Acts 4:10-12, Acts 10:43, and Philippians 2:6-11)

### **Read Matthew 1:22-25**

7. What are the 2 natures of Jesus that are clear in verse 23?
8. Why are both of Jesus’ two coexistent natures critical for Him to become the effective Savior of humankind?
9. What was unique about that time in history? Why does Paul say that Jesus was born in “the fulness of time”? (Galatians 4:4-5)
10. How does the nature of Jesus’ birth and God’s dealing with Joseph and Mary reveal God’s gentle and relentless pursuit of mankind?
  - c. How does knowing that God is faithful to His promises help you to walk in obedience to His word?
  - d. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What promises has God given to you that you can depend on and walk toward? How will your life be changed as you prioritize His eternal purpose over your temporal desires?