

Heavenly Confirmation  
Matthew 1:18 – 25  
The Laurel Center  
December 11, 2015

**Main Idea:** God confirmed Jesus' divine birth through angels and Scripture to Joseph.

**Introduction**

As we continue our Christmas series from the book of Matthew we will find the story of how Joseph dealt with the situation of Mary being pregnant. Joseph was pledged to be married to Mary, a legally binding marriage even though they were not yet living together. Joseph wanted to do the best he could for her by all human wisdom that this was a situation created by God. Human wisdom is useful but knowing God's plan is much better. Let's see how Joseph deals with the situation that God has made.

**Matthew 1:18–19**

**18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

- I.** Joseph chose a human approach to his problem.
  - A The situation required much wisdom.
  - B The situation required love and honor.

**Matthew 1:20-21**

**20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- II.** God revealed his plan to Joseph.
  - A God provided insight and knowledge.
  - B God provided direction and guidance.

**Matthew 1:22-25**

**22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23** "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**III.** Joseph chose to play his part in God's plan.

A Joseph story was part of God's larger story.

B Joseph obeyed God and used wisdom.

**Conclusion**

God's plan for Jesus' special birth was not hindered by Joseph. After God showed chosen his plan Joseph had no trouble joining in God's story. Using human wisdom is a good thing and God has given us that wisdom. But when God enters into our lives and shows us his wisdom we have a choice to become part of his plans or to do our own thing. Let us pray that God would help us to choose his way rather than our own.