

Christmas, A Line in Time For Mary and Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25



A Defining Moment

- Many say the virgin birth was impossible.
- Jesus was conceived outside the laws of nature.
- If one does not believe in the resurrection, then it does not matter if they accept the virgin birth or not.
- Mary and Joseph were in the Betrothal period of their relationship.
- During the Betrothal period, Mary could have been legally charged with adultery.
- One day life was normal for Mary and Joseph, and then everything changed.
- That first Christmas was a defining moment for Mary and Joseph.

Things Changed for Mary and Joseph

- Christmas changed other's perceptions of Mary and Joseph.
- The Christmas Story began not in Bethlehem, but in an obscure village called Nazareth.
- Some suggest that Nazareth was established 40 years after the death of Jesus.
- Nazareth is mentioned time and time again in the New Testament.
- Mary and Joseph came from a small community, and there are no secrets in small communities.
- Good people are annoying to bad people because they are good.

Perceptions

- When you choose to follow the One Who was born on that first Christmas, people's perceptions about you will change.
- Popular opinion in Nazareth may have cast Joseph in an unfavorable light for a while, but that opinion ultimately changed.
- The Spanish version of Joseph's name, San Jose, is the most common place name in the world.
- Because we serve Jesus, people will form opinions about us, sometimes for the good and sometimes not.
- You need to remember that you play to an audience of One, and that One is God.

Christmas Changed Their Perception of Themselves.

- Mary and Joseph received affirmation from God.
- Those who have the most influence in our lives are our parents and ourselves.
- What we tell ourselves about ourselves is usually defined by what others tell us about ourselves.
- Mary and Joseph were affirmed not just through words but through action.
- We are not a mistake or an accident or an oops, we are a wonderful, beautiful chosen one.
- When we realize just how much God loves us, it will change the perception we have of ourselves.

Christmas Changed Mary and Joseph's Priorities

- The first Christmas changed Mary and Joseph's priorities.
- When we have children, our purpose goes from being "Me" centered to "We" centered.
- Things that are so important before you become a parent takes a back seat after you become a parent.
- Mary did not find out she was pregnant until an Angel came and told her.
- The Angel outlined who the child was that she was carrying, and what He would accomplish.

Conclusion

- God entrusted His Son to this young couple to raise as their own.
- They were to raise Him in a Godly home to know and love His heavenly Father.
- They were to keep him safe and bring him up in the ways of God.
- As children of God our priorities need to be different than they were before we became children of God.
- Our priorities should no longer be “me” centered but “we” centered, embracing God and what His will is for our lives.