

“GOOD THINGS COME”

The Gospel of Matthew 1:18–17

Advent 2015: Part 1 / Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church

I. The Background and Birthright of Jesus (Matt. 1:1-17)

II. The Beginning and Birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:18-25)

A. The listed details of the back story (vv.18-19)

1. Marriage ritual (v.18a)
2. Mary's reality (v.18)
3. Man's response (v.19)

B. The Lord's divine intervention in this story (vv.20-23)

1. Personal conference with an angel (v.20a)
2. Purpose of conception explained (v.20b-21)
3. Prophecy of Christ is fulfilled (vv.22-23, cf. Isaiah 7:14)

C. The life-changing experience of the characters (vv.24-25)

1. Joseph witnesses a bona fide vision
2. Joseph weds his betrothed
3. Joseph walks in obedience with his wife

III. The Big Idea of this Jesus (Matt. 1:1-25)

A. Jesus is holy God (18, 20).

B. Jesus is God-with-us (23)

C. Jesus is savior (v.21)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. Think about what it must have felt like for the Joseph and Mary, two teenagers to be the family into which the Son of God had uniquely entered human history. Discuss how this must have changed their lives and personal plans. Discuss how God's program of redemption has a way of doing just that, changing our lives and personal plans with His ultimate plan of redeeming the nations through the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ. More personally, how has and how is the Lord recently been changing and challenging your dreams, plans, priorities, assets, and schedule for His glory and your joy?
2. Read Luke 1:46-55. In light of the last question, what does this passage reveal to us about Mary's attitude in the midst of God's plan interrupting her life with the gracious gift of the Son of God? (By way of background... This passage is known as the Cantic of Mary or the *Magnificat* (Latin: [My soul] magnifies. The context is Mary's visit with Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. After they greet, the child moves within Elizabeth's womb and she praises Mary for her faith. In response, Mary offers the *Magnificat* to God.)
3. The incarnation teaches us that God the Son became a man in Christ or more technically the Son of God took on a second nature, i.e., a human nature, so that He (the one person of the Son) had two natures – fully God and also fully human. Think of how the eternal Son of God humbled himself to take on a human nature, becoming a baby to two broke teenagers. Think of the glory and riches of heaven He gave up for the mission of the incarnation. Now reflect, what temporal things do you find difficult to give up for the mission of God?
4. In our study on Sunday we saw the divine purpose of the virgin conception (Matt 1:20-23) as the prophetic fulfillment of the Savior of sinners. How did this passage and Sunday's sermon point you to the gospel? How are you freshly reminded of your need for the Savior Jesus?