

Angelic Visitation - Joseph
Mat 1:18-25
December 14, 2014

Take Mary

- **Not seeking revenge**

DA Carson says:

Because he was a righteous man, Joseph therefore could not in conscience marry Mary who was now thought to be unfaithful. And because such a marriage would have been a tacit admission of his own guilt, and also because he was unwilling to expose her to the disgrace of public divorce, Joseph therefore chose a quieter way, permitted by the law itself. The full rigor of the law might have led to Mary's stoning, though that was rarely carried out in the first century. Still, a public divorce was possible, though Joseph was apparently unwilling to expose Mary to such shame. The law also allowed for private divorce before two witnesses. Being a Just Man that was what Joseph purposed. It would leave both his righteousness (his conformity to the law) and his compassion intact. ¹

- **Instructed to marry her anyway**

DA Carson said

The angel's opening words, "Joseph son of David," ties this pericope to the preceding genealogy, maintains interest in the theme of the Davidic Messiah, and, from Joseph's perspective, alerts him to the significance of the role he is to play.²

- **Incarnate of the Holy Ghost in the Womb of the Virgin Mary**

¹ Carson, D. A. "B. The Birth of Jesus (1:18-25)" In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*: Volume 8. 75. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1984.

² *ibid*

Home Study Guide

Monday: Read Matt. 1 Review your sermon notes. What is the point of the Angels visit to Joseph? What was his response?

Tuesday: Heb 4 Jesus is the same name as Joshua. How are they compared in this chapter? How is Jesus better?

Wednesday: John 1 What in John's prologue supports what is being said in the Angels message to Joseph?

Sunday's sermon will be "Angelic visitation - Shepherds"
Luke 2:8-20

Thursday: Read Micah 5 How is this prophecy fulfilled, or should we ask where?

Friday: Compare the vision Isaiah had in Isa 6 and the vision John had in Rev. 1 of the risen Christ – How can this one be incarnate in flesh and be born of a virgin?

Why would this be revealed to Shepherds?

Saturday: Do some research are there other times when a great company of angels appeared? When? Why?

Memory: Luke 2:13-14 *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

Prayer Items:

Family Catechism Study

[Westminster Shorter Catechism]

Q. 70. Which is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18

Q. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbour's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

1 Cor. 7:2-3, 5; 1 Thess. 4:3-5

The goal of remaining chaste in today's culture has become a joke. Have you seen the billboards around the beltway saying, “Teach your kids that ‘virgin’ is not a dirty word”? Isn't it sad such a sign would be thought of, much less be welcomed as an essential message for our kids today. But that is where we find ourselves isn't it!

Chastity used to be considered one of the 7 great virtues and under God's order of things, it still is. We need to resist the temptations of almost everything around us in order to pursue chastity.

This command speaks specifically to the issue of a breach in a marriage, but God's intent in the command is much larger. As with the other commands, we find the specifics spelled out in the remainder of the law and in the case law of the rest of the Bible. There are numerous places where God limits sexual practice both for the married and the unmarried.

Jesus makes it clear that outward action is not the only issue. In Matt. 5:28, He says, *“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* So he desires purity of heart and mind as well. The Catechism mentions heart, speech and behavior as the areas of application for this command, for both yourself and your neighbor. God wants us to promote purity or chastity for ourselves and our neighbor, anyone in our sphere of influence.

Be careful of what you watch; be careful of how you dress; be careful of what you say; be careful of where you go; be careful of what you do, we could go on and on. Since our culture has become so crazed with impurity and all sorts of improper and sinful sexual activity we must watch out for everything.

Since God declares that marriage is a symbol of his relationship to us through the Bridegroom Jesus Christ, the debauching of marriage and sex is particularly repugnant. If this is an area of failure for you, you must seek the forgiveness of

Christ, the faithful Bridegroom and the one who stands before the Father on our behalf, eternally chaste!