

Matthew 1:18-25 NIV

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ **"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").** ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel."

1. **Joseph's Rules for Crisis**
2. **Cultivating The Immanuel Life**

Who is Isaiah?

1. Prophet Isaiah lived in the 8th century BCE in the Kingdom of Judah.
2. He is known for his prophecies of the coming Messiah and the restoration of Israel.
3. Isaiah's writings are found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, which is the longest prophetic book. Quoted 60+ times in the NT.
4. He warned of God's judgment on Israel and other nations due to their sins.
5. Isaiah also emphasized the importance of justice, righteousness, and social responsibility.

"But those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." - Isaiah 61:1

1. **Joseph's Rules for Crisis Vs. 18** This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
 - a. **Joseph was a man of FAITH: Vs. 19 Because** Joseph her husband was **faithful** to the law.
 - b. **Joseph was a man of Grace: Vs. 19b and yet** did not want to expose her to public **disgrace**.
 - c. **Joseph was a man of Peace: Vs. 19c** he had in mind to **divorce her quietly**.
2.
 - a. **The Immanuel Life is the Consider Life: Vs. 20** But after he had **considered** this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
 - b. **The Immanuel Life is the Obedient Life: Vs. 24** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How do Joseph's actions in response to Mary's pregnancy demonstrate qualities like faith, grace, and peace? What can we learn from his example when facing difficult situations in our own lives?
2. In the sermon, it was mentioned that "The Immanuel Life is the Consider Life." What does this mean, and how can we apply the concept of considering our spirituality in our own lives when making important decisions?
3. The Immanuel Life is also described as the Obedient Life. How did Joseph demonstrate obedience in this story, and why is obedience an important aspect of our faith journey?
4. The name "Immanuel" means "God with us.", but it implies that God is a deliverer. Do you wait for God's deliverance, or do you often go it alone?
5. Prophet Isaiah's prophecies are fulfilled in the story of Jesus' birth. Why is it significant that Isaiah's words about the virgin birth and the name Immanuel were realized in the birth of Jesus? How does this reinforce the idea that God's plan and promises are trustworthy and come to fruition?