



# MATTHEW 1:18-21; JOHN 12:1-8

## LESSON: SORROW BEFORE TRIUMPH — December 5, 2021

### INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS: MATTHEW 1:12-17:

#### Joseph's line

Matthew had been a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples who wrote especially to the Jews. He began his account by giving Jesus' genealogy to prove Jesus was a descendant of both King David and Abraham, just as the Old Testament had predicted. This would mean that Joseph's firstborn son would have the right to sit on David's throne. But, according to Jeremiah 22:30 God had cursed Jeconiah's bloodline which was apart of David's royal line. God didn't even want Jeconiah children's names to be written down.

But, the gospel of Luke also gives Jesus' genealogy, but not through His legal line, but Luke tells us of Jesus' biological bloodline, which He had through His mother Mary. And Mary's line also descends through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah (Lk.3:33-34), through Jesse to David. Mary's heritage did not extend through the kingly line of Solomon. Instead, she was a descendant of David's son Nathan.

Joseph's lineage is traced back to King David. Joseph was the son of Heli by marriage. Heli didn't have children and he died childless. Jacob and Heli became brothers through the Levitra marriage. Heli's widow became the wife of Jacob, of the tribe of Solomon, and Joseph became the offspring of the marriage. Thus, according to Jewish Law, Jesus could legally inherit the throne, for He was heir through Joseph to the royal line of descent, while completely avoiding the blood curse on Jeconiah's line! Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of King David and of Abraham. Luke 3:23 shows that Jesus was the son of Joseph through marriage to Mary. Matthew 1:16 shows Jacob was Joseph's father. Joseph was still in the royal line of David. Therefore, Jesus still had all legal rights to Joseph's lineage, legally. And Mary was descendant of David's lineage, (his son Nathan) which Jesus had all rights as Messiah.

Conclusion: Jesus was born of a virgin, conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit which still brought the two lineages together to show Jesus' legal right as the Messiah upon David's throne. Thus, according to Jewish Law, Jesus could legally inherit the throne, while completely avoiding the blood curse on Jeconiah's line! The generations from Abraham to David are 14; from David to their captivity into Babylon are 14; and from the captivity to Babylon to Christ are 14 generations— Totaling 42 generations.

The Messiah is called the Son of man, the Christ, and God's very own Son (Matt.16:13-17; Mk.14:61-62; Jh.4:25-26), and is identified as: • Prophet (Deut.18:15-19) • Priest (Ps.110:4) • King (2Sam.7:12-13)

Those in this position were always anointed with oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus Christ, the Messiah like a dove (Matt.3:16; Mk.1:10-11; Lk.3:21-22; Jh.1:32-33).

### LESSON: I. A MOMENTOUS ANNOUNCEMENT MATTHEW 1:18-21

**1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, — This is a momentous announcement which means it's historic, significant,**  
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and crucial, for Mary and Joseph were betrothed. The betrothal is a promise of marriage, sort of like being engaged in modern society. However, the bond of the promise made was much stronger than a simple engagement. During the time of betrothal, although the couple is not joined physically, they are bound by a marriage covenant. To break the engagement would require a decree of divorce. There are three steps involved in a Jewish marriage:

- The **engagement**: the parents usually determine who a child was to marry—often at a very early age.
- The **betrothal**: at a determined time the couple agrees with the engagement. If they followed through, the betrothal was immediately binding. To get out of the marriage would require a legal divorce.
- The betrothal lasted one year. When Joseph discovered Mary's pregnancy, they were already betrothed to one another.
- The **marriage**: the consummation of the couple took place. It should be noted that in Joseph's case consummation did not occur until after Jesus' birth.

## Before They Came Together

There was no physical intimacy in their betrothal. At this point in their relationship, she was found to be with child –pregnant. But she had not committed the sin of adultery or had relations with any man. The adultery law said that a betrothed virgin who committed adultery was to be stoned to death (Deut.22:21-24). But, she was with child.

## With Child By The Holy Spirit

**1:18b ...she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.** Mary was with child by the Holy Spirit before they were united in marriage. What does it mean "to be with child by the Holy Spirit?" The gospel of Luke explains that the angel Gabriel told Mary: Luke 1:31 *"...you will conceive in your womb and bear a son..."* When Mary inquired as to how this would happen, since she was a virgin, Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."* Mary, a virgin who had not been with any man, became pregnant. This pregnancy was a supernatural act by the power of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit. This pregnancy might have begun supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, but it progressed normally as all others do biologically. It was not too many weeks after this that her pregnancy became known. You can only imagine Joseph's reaction to this, for he knew the baby wasn't his.

## Joseph A Righteous Man

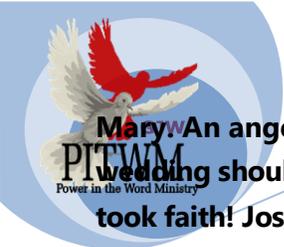
**1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.** Joseph was a righteous man. And righteousness is God's perfect balance of justice and mercy. Justice said that divorce was the thing to do - break the vow of betrothal. But justice also said that if a man find that the woman he is to marry is found not to be a virgin, Deut. 22:21 *"Then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death..."* That is justice. But being a righteous man meant Joseph was also merciful. He knew he couldn't marry her, but also wanted to show mercy. And so, rather than a public stoning, Joseph would quietly divorce her and send her away somewhere.

## An Angel In A Dream

**1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.** Without supernatural intervention, Joseph would not have wed

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**Mary:** An angel appeared to him in a dream and reassured him that Mary was still a virgin, and that the wedding should still take place. Both Joseph and Mary had to deal with decisions! How they handled them took faith! Joseph chose to show MERCY. Mary chose TRUST! And We choose Christ!

## Call His Name Jesus

**1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Joseph was not excluded from the parenting of God's Son. The angel told Joseph that the child was God's, and shall call His name JESUS! Call His name: "YAH-weh which means salvation." Jewish boys would get their names when they were eight days old, on the day of their circumcision (See Luke 2:21). Because it is HE who will save HIS people from their sins, YAH-weh - God Himself - The child in Mary's womb shall be called JESUS. The Bible says in 1Tim. 1:15 "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

## II. EXTRAORDINARY DEVOTION JOHN 12:1-3

**INTRODUCTION** After the response of unbelief and rejection by the high priest Caiaphas, Jesus withdrew from them. The Lord's Spirit does not always strive with men. He walked no more openly among the Jews, but concentrated and went to a city called Ephraim drawing closer to His disciples. Passover season was near, and during that time of the Feasts, the leaders were seeking to commit the most heinous crime to get rid of Jesus, meaning by death.

**12:1** Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead whom he raised from the dead. It is six days before Passover and Jesus along with His disciples have come to the town of Bethany where Lazarus is. It's a celebration time for Jesus who has raised Lazarus from the dead, for he is alive.

**12:2** There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. A supper is made in honor of Jesus' coming, and Martha is serving the supper, while Lazarus is sitting at the table with Jesus. In the Book of John, it does not mention whose house they are in. But in Matthew and Mark they are in the house of Simon the Leper. This time Martha is not worried about Mary not helping. She seems content.

**12:3** Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha was always at the feet of Jesus, and at this time she brings out a pound of very costly spikenard ointment, and anoints Jesus' feet, and even wiping His feet with her hair, filling the whole house with its odor. Mary shows an extraordinary devotion that is, astonishing, exceptional, and remarkable devotion. Uncovering her hair in public was not something Jewish women did. She had to have sensed something; a pulling of urgency upon her heart by the Spirit to know the need in Jesus' life. It's just like when we are led to pray for someone; a need of urgency to pray at that moment. It is by God's power and urging of the Holy Spirit that we do this. Mary's devotion of love:

- Mary's love took the most precious thing that she had.
- Mary's love was selfless and costly.
- Mary's love meant that in her eyes, Jesus was the most important guest there.



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## III. A DUPLICIOUS OBJECTION JOHN 12:4-8

**12:4** Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,— One of Jesus' disciples who is called Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, didn't like how Mary used the expensive ointment she had. Judas was the one who would betray Jesus.

- Mary's love chose the right opportunity.
- Mary's love was faithful to the end.

Opportunities come and go. Once they are gone, they are gone, therefore, make right choices.

**12:5** Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?— Judas wants to know why this expensive ointment was used when it could have been sold for 300 pence, and the proceeds could have been given to the poor. Judas didn't think Jesus was even worthy of the oil used upon Him. He considered it a waste. He was angry at Mary for using it, and possibly angry at Jesus for allowing such wastefulness. In that time, people poured expensive perfume over a dead body before they put the body in a grave. Our love is shown by our actions.

- Mary's love was questioned and murmured against.

Jesus said that they would have "*the poor with them always, but He will not be there always*" (v.8). However, Mary took advantage of this opportunity while He was still with them.

**12:6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. At this particular time Judas was not really caring about the poor. He was the one who carried the money purse, and was a thief as well. He wanted the money. Judas had a duplicious objection, that is, a devious, deceitful, and underhanded motive. In his objection.

- Mary's love was pure, Judas' motive was impure.
- Mary's love was toward Jesus, Judas' concern was not.

**12:7** Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. Jesus interrupts his dialogue and says "*leave her alone.*" What Mary had done for Jesus (the anointing of His body) pointed toward His burial, that is, His death in which He had been telling them several times before would happen.

- Mary's love and faith and her gift and her anointing were a witness of anticipation.
- Mary's love was rewarded by Jesus' approval.

**12:8** For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. The poor would always be present for the believer to help, but the privilege of ministering to Jesus would not always be available. The servant of the Lord must love and act "*while it's still day, for when night comes, no man can work*" (John 9:4). "*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil*" (Ephesians 5:16).

## SUMMARY: MATTHEW 1:18-21

Matthew gives us the birth of Jesus Christ. Mary was already promised to Joseph before they came together. Mary was found pregnant by the Holy Ghost and Joseph was not the father! Joseph being a just man did not want to publicly divorce her, but would send her away quietly. While Joseph had contemplated these things that had happened, an angel appeared to him in a dream to let him know that it's alright to take Mary as his wife.  
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wife, and the child she had conceived within her is by the Holy Ghost and not by man. Joseph chose to show **MERCY**. Mary chose **TRUST!** And **We** choose Christ! God had blessed the child in Mary's womb, and this child, the son would be named Jesus, the Savior of the people for He will be the One to save them from their sins. (1:18-21).

## SUMMARY: JOHN 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup>It is six days before Passover and Jesus along with His disciples have come to the town of Bethany where Lazarus is. It's a celebration time for Jesus who has raised Lazarus from the dead, for he is alive.

<sup>2</sup>A supper is made in honor of Jesus' coming, and Martha is serving the supper, while Lazarus is sitting at the table with Jesus. In the Book of John, it does not mention whose house they are in. But in Matthew and Mark they are in the house of Simon the Leper. <sup>3</sup>Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha was always at the feet of Jesus, and at this time she brings in a pound of very costly spikenard ointment, and anoints the feet of Jesus, even wiping His feet with her hair that filled the whole house with its odor (12:1-3).

<sup>4</sup>One of Jesus' disciples who is called Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, didn't do this. Judas would be the one to betray Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Judas wants to know why this expensive ointment was used when it could have been sold for 300 pence, and the proceeds could have been given to the poor. Judas didn't think Jesus was even worthy of the oil used upon Him. He considered it a waste. He was angry at Mary for using it and angry at Jesus for allowing such wastefulness. Our love is shown by our actions. Jesus said that they would have *"the poor with them always, but He will not be there always"* (v.8). This is where Mary took advantage of this opportunity while Jesus was still with them. <sup>6</sup>At this particular time Judas was not really caring about the poor. He was the one who carried the money purse and was a thief as well. <sup>7</sup>Jesus interrupts this dialogue and says leave her alone. What Mary had done for Jesus (the anointing of His body) pointed toward His burial, that is, His death in which He had told them several times before would happen. <sup>8</sup>The poor would always be present for the believer to help, but the privilege of ministering to Jesus would not always be available. The servant of the Lord must love and act *"while it's still day, for when night comes, no man can work"* (John 9:4) (12:4-8).