



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE COMING OF THE KING

Matthew 1:18-25 • Lesson One

ZOOM!

READY

- The Gospel of Matthew opens with the miracle of Jesus' birth! Describe some of the Christmas activities and traditions you and your family observe. If someone from another culture visited your family, what would they conclude about Christmas?

SET

Context of Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew records the good news about the most significant events in all of history—the birth, life, sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Each Gospel writer wrote from a unique perspective and for a different audience. As a result, each Gospel contains distinctive elements. Taken together, the four Gospels form a complete testimony about Jesus Christ.

Keys to Text

Gospel: The English word gospel derives from the Anglo-Saxon word godspell, which can mean either “a story about God” or “a good story.” The latter meaning is in harmony with the Greek word evangellion, which means “good news.” Matthew and the other Gospels record the good news of Jesus' life. The primary purpose of the Gospels is to provide authoritative answers to questions about Jesus' life and ministry, and they strengthen believers' assurance regarding the reality of their faith.

GO

Read Matthew 1:18-25

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”

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Every season when college football begins most schools celebrate activities and traditions on game day. Nearly every school celebrates “Homecoming” and others have pep rallies to prepare the fans and team for the upcoming game. Does your school have any unique celebrations or traditions in sports? What spiritual activities or traditions do either you or your team do? How do these activities focus on the glory of God and the gospel?

- What impressed or stood out to you in these verses?
- Mary and Joseph faced a very unusual “crisis.” Though she was a virgin, she was pregnant. How do you think others view their relationship and treated them? What can modern Christians learn from their response to an extremely trying situation?
- What will you do differently, as a result of this study, to demonstrate your love and devotion to Christ?