**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr, January 22, 2023**

**A Birth Like No Other!**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Key Truth:** Because Jesus is fully God and fully man, He alone can make atonement for our sins.

**Try Standing In Joseph’s Shoes:**

1. Joseph had to allow his faith in God to overrule his fear.

 A. Joseph was called by God to be the earthly father of Jesus

 Christ.

 B. Joseph’s obedience to God kept Mary from becoming a

 single mother, a religious and social outcast.

 C. In his humility and obedience, Joseph revealed that God’s

 plan was worth more to him than anything else.

**Question**: What do you do when your plans and God’s plan

 don’t align?

**Answer:** You must surrender your plans to the loving will of

 God.

**Why The Virgin Birth:**

1. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin so that He could be fully man

 without inheriting Adam’s sin. Romans 5:12-14

2. Jesus Christ being fully human and divine enabled Him to be

 our representative and redeemer before God the Father.

 Hebrews 2:14-17

3. The virgin birth proves that in Jesus Christ, God is now with

 His people personally as their Savior.

4. Jesus Christ virgin birth declares that the greatest need of

 humanity is salvation.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Ask God to strengthen your faith and your courage to obey Him no matter the circumstances. Pray that as we study the gospel of Matthew, your hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus Christ will increase.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

If you had been Mary when she found out she was pregnant, what would be the first thing to pop into your mind? If you had been Joseph, what might have been the first thing to pop into your mind?

How might these events have strained and strengthened the relationship of Joseph and Mary?

Read Matthew 1:18-21: Why was it important that Joseph continue as the earthly father for Jesus?

According to verses 20-21, what two responsibilities did God give Joseph?

Read Hebrews 4:14-15. How is Jesus’ identity as Immanuel, God with us, confirmed in these verses?

Why was it important for Him to become like us and be born as a baby? In theological terms, why is the incarnation crucial to the gospel message?

Read Matthew 1:24-25: What do Joseph’s actions communicate in these verses? What things did Joseph do in response to the dream he had?

What can you surmise about the faith of Joseph from Matthew 1:18-25? What does this tell you about his relationship with God?

What emotions do you feel when you reflect on the incarnation of Christ?