



Responding to New Realities

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.

MATTHEW 1:18

Responding to New Realities

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.

MATTHEW 1:19

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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.”

MATTHEW 1:20

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“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.”

MATTHEW 1:21

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**All this took place to fulfill what the
Lord had said through the prophet:**

MATTHEW 1:22

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“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

MATTHEW 1:23

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When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

MATTHEW 1:24

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**But he did not consummate their
marriage until she gave birth to a Son.
And he gave Him the name Jesus.**

MATTHEW 1:25

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Joseph's Dilemma & Solution (1:18,19)

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“To ignore the virgin birth is to ignore Christ’s deity. And to ignore His deity is tantamount to denying it. Real incarnation demands a real virgin birth. Apart from Jesus’ being both human and divine, there is no Gospel.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

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At the time, Joseph probably thought that he had no good options. He has a terrible option and an awful option. He wasn't aware that God could — and would — provide a better or even perfect option.

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“Joseph therefore chose a quieter way, permitted by the Law itself. It would leave both his righteousness and his compassion intact.”

D.A. CARSON

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God's Design & Salvation (1:20-23)

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God's Design & Salvation

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“Jesus had to have one human parent or He could not have been human, and thereby a partaker of our flesh. But He also had to have Divine parentage or He could not have made a sinless and perfect sacrifice on our behalf.”

D.A. CARSON

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“The name ‘Jesus’ specifies what He does (‘God saves’), while the messianic title ‘Immanuel’ specifies who He is (‘God with us’).”

ESV STUDY BIBLE

Responding to New Realities

**But when the set time had fully
come, God sent His Son, born of a
woman, born under the Law,**

GALATIANS 4:4

Responding to New Realities

**to redeem those under the Law, that
we might receive adoption to sonship.**

GALATIANS 4:5

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“This astounding truth of Christianity — the reality that God became flesh — may be incomprehensible to many, but to those who believe it is irresistible.”

DAVID PLATT

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“A God who was *only* holy would not have come down to us in Jesus Christ. He would have simply demanded that we pull ourselves together.”

TIM KELLER

Responding to New Realities

“The God of the modern imagination would have just overlooked sin and evil and embraced us. Neither the God of moralism nor the God of relativism would have bothered with Christmas.”

TIM KELLER

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**“[But the God of the Bible] doesn’t
send someone; He comes himself
to fetch us.”**

TIM KELLER

Responding to New Realities

“Why would God come this time in the form of a baby, rather than a firestorm or whirlwind? Because this time He has come not to bring judgment but to bear it...”

TIM KELLER

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“to pay the penalty for our sins, to take away the barrier between humanity and God, so we can be together. Jesus is God *with us*.”

TIM KELLER

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“When you put these truths concerning Jesus’ nature together, you begin to realize that the incarnation, the doctrine of Jesus’ full humanity and full deity, is the most extraordinary miracle in the whole Bible.”

DAVID PLATT

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“And if this miracle is true, then everything else in this Gospel account makes total sense.”

DAVID PLATT

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Joseph's Trust & Obedience (1:24,25)

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Joseph's Trust & Obedience

Responding to New Realities

“By refusing to let him name Jesus, the angel is saying, ‘If Jesus is in your life, you are not *his* manager. This Child who is about to be born is *your* manager.’”

TIM KELLER

Responding to New Realities

“If you want Jesus with you, you have to give up the right to self-determination.”

TIM KELLER

Responding to New Realities

“Joseph must learn to align his life to God’s plan as He leads. This is a truth every believer in Jesus the Messiah must learn to obey.”

DAVID KARN

Responding to New Realities

“When we obey, we understand what it means to be standing in the center of God’s will and we will have a front row seat as we watch what God will do through us for His glory.”

DAVID KARN

Responding to New Realities



Responding to New Realities

**God cares more
about our redemption
than our reputation.
Like Joseph, so should we.**

Responding to New Realities



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