

**First: The gift of PREGNANT fiancée**

Matthew 1:18-19 (NASB) “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.”



Deuteronomy 22:23-24 (NLT) “Suppose a man meets a young woman, a virgin who is engaged to be married, and he has sexual intercourse with her. If this happens within a town, you must take both of them to the gates of that town and stone them to death. The woman is guilty because she did not scream for help. The man must die because he violated another man’s wife. In this way, you will purge this evil from among you.”

**Second: The gift of a PLAN to follow**

Matthew 1:20-21 (NASB) “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NASB) “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. You shall multiply the nation, you shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. for You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

## Joseph's Surprised Gift

Mark 8:35 & 38 (NIV) "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it... If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

**Third: The gift of a [PROPHECY](#) fulfilled.**

Matthew 1:22-23 (NASB) "Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

John 14:23 (NASB) "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him"

### Application:

Joseph demonstrated the character traits of Righteousness, mercy, and obedience. On a scale of 1 to 10 how strong are these traits in your life right now?

Righteousness:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mercy:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Obedience:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

What do you need to deny yourself this season to be able to demonstrate more of Jesus in your life?

What are you willing to give up for the sake of the salvation of others?

What have you learned from this look at Joseph?

What has God shown you that you need to do to conform to what God has said?

What adjustments will you make in your life that you might experience God this week?

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:23 (NASB) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

