



12/12/25

*In this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about how Jesus is Lord over the storms of our life, and He sustains us through the storms. If you'd like to hear the podcast, here's the link ~ <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Merry Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Matthew 1:1-2, 18-25*

*Ahhhh... deep breath... it is finally time to remember and celebrate the hope of this world... Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Matthew starts with a genealogy... very exciting, right? Actually... yes. Matthew is proving to us that Jesus was never an afterthought. His life on earth was planned down to the minutest detail, including His blood lineage. The prophecies said Jesus would be from the bloodline of David and Abraham... and He was. The prophecies said Jesus would come through Abraham... then his son Isaac, not Ishmael... then his son Jacob, not Esau... then Judah, whose name means "Praised."*

*Judah was among 11 other brothers, but God chose His Son to come through Judah's line. His mother was Leah, the unloved wife of Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel). Leah knew that Jacob didn't love her, and she continued to name her kids with names that displayed her hopes to be loved, honored, and attached to Jacob... but that desire was never fulfilled. And yet, God SAW Leah. He remembered her. She finally came to the understanding that God was with her. So when she had Judah, her 4th son, she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." And God blessed that devotion by making her the great, great however many greats great-grandmother of Jesus. God never abandoned or forgot Leah... and He never abandoned or forgot His promise to send His Son to be the Savior of the world.*

*So... this is part of the story... Mary was betrothed to Joseph. They were as good as married, but they had not yet come together to live as husband and wife. Then Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant and he wasn't the father.*

*In Luke 1, I see that Mary was told she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit, the long-*

*awaited Messiah. But Joseph had not yet gotten the memo. Why would God tell Mary but not Joseph? Did He forget a detail? No. I think it was to build both of their faith. They would be facing many more challenges throughout Jesus' life. They needed to know how to rely on and trust in God individually, and then as a couple. When God tests our faith, it's because He has something better for us.*

*Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant. I love how this says, "Before they came together, she was found to be with child FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. When Matthew wrote this, he knew the Holy Spirit had placed this seed in Mary's body. Mary knew it. Joseph did not know it. He just she knew she was pregnant and he wasn't the father.*

*By Jewish law, he could've had her stoned to death. I can only imagine what Mary was thinking... Did God want her, a woman with no means of survival on her own, to raise Jesus alone? By faith, I think she trusted that she would have this baby. She probably replayed the moment over and over in her mind when she said hi to Elizabeth after she "made haste" to see her because the Angel Gabriel told her that Elizabeth, way past the age of childbearing, was pregnant. Mary probably replayed Elizabeth crying out with joy and awe that the mother of her Savior had come to visit... even though Mary didn't tell her she was pregnant, and Mary wasn't far enough along to show that she was pregnant. Mary got the memo. Elizabeth got the memo. Joseph did not get the memo.*

*But Joseph was a righteous man. He didn't want to hurt Mary. He was just going to quietly divorce her. Then he got better than a memo. He had probably been tossing and turning in bed all night, considering his options. Even if he did divorce Mary quietly, what would happen to her? Nazareth was a small town. What would people say? Would they still want to have her stoned?*

*But while Joseph intermittently slept, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, "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." I wonder if Joseph woke up and immediately thought of Isaiah 7:14, repeated here by Matthew, "Behold (check it out), the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)."*

*I bet Joseph thought, "I never understood that verse before! I've read it so many times. How could a virgin have a baby? That's impossible! But now I know... NOTHING is impossible with God... Immanuel... God with us." The sorrow Joseph had gone to bed with was replaced with joy... just like Isaiah 61:3 says about what the Messiah would do... "give us a beautiful headdress (a wedding headdress) instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a garment of praise instead of a faint spirit." I wonder if Joseph sang the words of Psalm 30:5, "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning."*

*I imagine Mary started singing those words when Joseph showed up at her door and said, "Mary! An angel visited me. I see it now. This baby is from the Holy Spirit." Then he got down*

*on his knee and said, "Mary, would you please be my wife?"*

*They were married right away, but they were not intimate until after Jesus was born. No matter who would believe them or not believe them, they were going to honor the Lord in obedience no matter what. The only one that ultimately mattered in believing them was the Lord Himself.*

*Just as the angel said, Mary gave birth to a son. They needed no gender reveal. They knew from the beginning... He would be a boy from the Holy Spirit. He would be Immanuel, God with us. He would be called Jesus, Yeshua is salvation.*

*Lord, I see many examples in scripture where You do not give the memo right away. You want me to trust You even when I don't understand Your plan. Anytime I say or hear the words, "God has a plan," my next thought needs to be, "And His plan is good." No matter what... He knows what He's doing. He has the power and the wisdom to do it, even down to the tiniest detail. And He loves me. I don't have to know the plan. I don't have to devise a plan. I have to follow Him and His plan. Let me not forget Psalm 25:10, "ALL the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies," even when I don't understand His plan, I can follow Him because He has a plan. His plan is good. His plan is beyond what I could ask or think. His plan is filled with His love and faithfulness. O Lord, I pray that I will respond to You as Mary responded to the angel, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be to me according to your word."*