

DOES THE VIRGIN BIRTH MATTER?

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

November 4, 2007 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION (READ line from the Apostle's Creed)

- A. A little girl asked her mother which virgin was Jesus' mother—"the virgin Mary" or the King James Virgin?"
- B. This illustrates the confusion that some Christians still have today about the virgin birth of Christ.

I. CONFUSION ABOUT THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST.

- A. Most Christians simply accept it as fact without giving it any serious thought.
- B. Some people, though, especially in the last 150 years have questioned it.
 1. In the 20th century a well known theologian named Rudolf Bultman suggested Christians "Demytholize" the Bible, thus eliminating such impossible to believe doctrines like the virgin birth.
 2. Harry Emerson Fosdick, was the well known pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New York city in the 20th century. He divided people into two groups—"fundamentalists" who believed it and "enlightened" Christians who didn't.
- C. What is the crux of it? Whether you believe in miracles or not.
 1. Which is harder? To create Adam without either parent or create Jesus with only one?
 2. The virgin birth falls in the same category as God's creation of the universe. If you believe Genesis 1:1 then you can believe Matthew 1:20.
- D. How was it done? No one knows, however, Luke 1:35 offers a small clue.

Luke 1:35; The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow** you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Refers to God's presence, power and purpose.

II. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- A. The truth of the Bible rests on it.
 1. If the Bible is wrong about this how can we trust it to be right about other things?
 2. Mel Gibson was interviewed by Diane Sawyer after he produced "The Passion of the Christ". She asked him if he believed every word of the Bible . He responded, "Yes, You have to believe it all. Either you believe all of it, or none of it."
- B. Then Jesus is only a man and not God

Phil 2:5-7; ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
- C. Then Jesus could not be our Savior. The angel tied his virgin birth to his work of salvation

Matt. 1:21; ²¹ 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."

CONCLUSION

- A. Can Christians doubt it? Not for us to judge.
- B. Is it unreasonable to believe it?
 1. The Apostle's Creed doesn't think so.
 2. Neither do I.