

## The Step-Dad's Guide to Greatness

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

Study:

1. The coming of God's Son into the world was one of the most unusual events in all of history. It necessitated and caused some very unusual events listed in Matthew 1:18-25. What were they? See if you can identify at least five.
2. Jesus' birth creates a predicament for every man. Imagine the emotions and the hurt Joseph felt when he discovered Mary, his fiancée, was pregnant. Imagine the thoughts that must have flooded his mind! What a predicament Jesus' birth created for Joseph! Jesus' birth creates a predicament for every man in that every man is now forced to make a decision about Christ and His claims. Discuss: Name as many ways Joseph solved the problem? How would these examples help many Dad's and husbands?
3. Jesus' birth necessitated a special revelation. Note the words, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Joseph did just what he should have done: he got alone with God to think and pray through the predicament. Because of his godly dependence and obedience, God met his need. God gave Joseph a special revelation. Discuss and find how God's purpose was fourfold?
4. How did Joseph obey in chapter 2? Why did Joseph, Mary and Jesus end up in Nazareth?
5. Matthew 13:54-56, in the words, "Where did he learn all these things?" Discuss: how do you answer this question? As the oldest son in the family He would have helped His father, learning and working as a carpenter beside his father's side. He knew what it was to build a house, a tower, a barn, and an oxen yoke. He knew about beams (Matthew 7:3-4) and strong

foundations. He did the very best at whatever He did, so He was the best of carpenters. He had no training from a university and He had no degree, nor was He recognized and called "Rabbi" by the public at large. Apparently His father died while He was still home, so He would have been the head of the house and the major breadwinner for a number of years.