

**God with Us**  
**Joseph Gets the Shock of His life!**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

**Introduction**

1. What is the most shocking personal news you have ever received?
  - You're terminated! I want a divorce! You're \_\_\_\_\_ has died! You have cancer! You've been promoted to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Matthew 1 we find the account of Joseph the carpenter getting a series of shocks that would radically change his life.

**The Shocks that changed Joseph's Life**

**Shock #1: Mary, his betrothed, is going to have a baby (not his). Vs. 18-19**

- By Jewish law their parents had signed a contract pledging them to each other.
- The contract included a one year waiting period to ensure she was not expecting.
- The only way Joseph could break the engagement was with a legal divorce. He could publicly charge her with adultery that would lead to her being stoned.
- He chose to privately give her the divorce papers to spare her the disgrace.

**Shock #2: Joseph is confronted by an Angel of the Lord. Vs. 20-25**

- The angel informs him the baby is indeed a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.
- Mary is still a virgin. She did not cheat on Joseph. Vs. 23
- The baby is a son. He is to be called Jesus. He will save His people from their sins.
- The baby will be called Immanuel (God with us).
- Joseph chose to do as the angel said even though it would cast suspicion on him.

**Now What?**

- We need to take the birth, identity, and work of Jesus Christ seriously. He is the focal point of history. Gal. 4:4
- The only acceptable response from God's viewpoint is for us to confess our sinfulness and to trust Christ as our Savior and Lord.
- What does Christmas mean to you? Remember:

***Jesus is the reason for the season!***

**Matthew 1:18-25** - Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "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. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Gal. 4:4** - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,