

## The Son of Joseph and Mary

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

*Our series for the Advent season is entitled "The Son." We may learn much about this baby in the manger through his various titles and descriptions that use the word "Son." Last week Bill spoke about a Son of Promise, and next week Ben will speak on Jesus as the Son of God. Today we consider Jesus the son of Joseph and Mary.*

### 1. Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

- He was "betrothed," not merely 'engaged' as we do today.
  - And he finds out Mary was pregnant. We can all imagine Joseph's questions.
- The key verse about Joseph: "And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly." (Matt 1:19) Joseph is called a "just" man. How is this seen?
  - He did not want to put Mary to shame. (1:19)
  - He obeyed the Lord four separate times (1:20-21, 2:13, 2:19-20, 2:22-23), all of which concerned his duties as a husband and father.

### 2. Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

- She understandably wonders at the possibility of such a pregnancy—but unlike Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, she's not struck mute for unbelief! (Luke 1:20)
- Mary's beautiful faith: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (1:38)
  - Mary is an exemplary believer who humbly accepts God's plan.

- EXCURSUS on the saints and Mary

### 3. Jesus

- An illegitimate child? Probably implied by his enemies in John 8:41, Mark 6:3. The virgin birth ensured cruel rumors and accusations.
  - Jesus polarized people from the beginning!
- Born of a virgin: why is this important? The answer might surprise you.
- Human, like us!
- Savior of sinners (Matt 1:21)

### Questions for Further Reflection and Application

1. Multiple titles of Jesus begin with "The Son of..." What's the importance of a title in society today and in Scripture?
2. Read Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38. Both Joseph and Mary are exemplary.
  - a. Should we imitate godly persons of faith? If so, why? Consider 1 Cor 11:1, 4:16; James 5:16-18. How can you apply this today?
  - b. Are there 'limits' to this? What should we *not* do? For instance, consider Acts 10:25-26, 14:13-15, Rev 19:10.
3. Why is it important that Jesus was the son of Joseph and Mary?