


ADVENT #2 - LOVE FROM THE ANGELS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 1


1 **Virgin Conception: How does the denial of Jesus' virgin birth affect the gospel message?** So what if Jesus had 2 biological human parents? What if Jesus had no human parents? Discuss the ramifications of these questions.


2 **Mary: "She was found with child of the Holy Spirit."** Matthew plainly (without the greater detail found in the Gospel of Luke) presents the virginal conception and subsequent birth of Jesus. However, the virgin birth was difficult for people to believe back then, even as it is also doubted now by some.

 What verses would you use to support the prophecy and the fulfillment of the virgin birth of Jesus? Discuss your answers.

 We should consider what a great trial this was for a godly young woman like Mary, and for Joseph her betrothed. "Her situation was the most distressing and humiliating that can be conceived. Nothing but the fullest consciousness of her own integrity, and the strongest confidence in God, could have supported her in such trying circumstances, where her reputation, her honor, and her life were at stake." (Clarke) What additional thoughts do you have about this situation?

3 **Joseph: "Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly" (Matt 1:19)**

 Joseph her husband: The previous verse told us that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. This comment shows that even though they were not formally married, Joseph was still considered Mary's husband by betrothal.

 Being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example: Being a just man, Joseph knew that if Mary had been unfaithful to him it would be impossible to go through with the marriage. Yet his nature as a just man also did not want to make this an unnecessary hardship or stigma upon Mary. Joseph made the understandable decision to seek a quiet divorce. What are your thoughts about the decision itself, and the manner it was going to be done?

 Discuss verses 20-21 about how Joseph was convinced not to divorce Mary.

4 **JESUS as Savior: "You shall call his name JESUS" The name JESUS means "The Salvation of Yahweh."** As was later said by the Apostle Peter, there is no other name under heaven by which men must be saved (Acts 4:12). "For He will save His people from their sins" The angelic messenger briefly and eloquently stated the work of the coming Messiah, Jesus. He will come as a savior, and come to save His people from their sins. This description of the work of Jesus reminds us that Jesus meets us in our sin, but His purpose is to save us from our sins.

