

Sunday School Live Lesson

April 7, 2024

Emmanuel is Born

Matthew 1:18-25

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Question for Us Today

April 7, 2024

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Have you thought of making a particular major decision and then found that the Lord wanted you to do something differently?

What did you do?

Sunday School Lesson

Objectives

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To determine how and why Joseph acted upon discovering Mary's pregnancy.

To understand Matthew's account of the Virgin Birth of Jesus.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

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1. Bibliography

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2. Points of Information: Matthew

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

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3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember This

Points of Information – Matthew

Matthew's original name was Levi. Although Matthew refers to himself by this name (which most of us know him by), the Gospels according to Mark and Luke refer to him by his original name: Levi. The name "Matthew" means "Gift of Jehovah."

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The Gospel according to Matthew is one of the three Synoptic Gospels – written with similar content, points of view and sequence. The others were written by Mark and Luke.

Points of Information – Matthew

Before being called to Discipleship by Jesus, Matthew's occupation was as a tax collector. This line of work was dreaded by the populace for at least a couple of reasons. These servants of the Roman Empire collected taxes for the despised and oppressive government. And, with the government's permission, they were allowed to collect extra monies above the tax amounts for themselves. Hence, they were regarded as veritable "leeches" upon their own people.

Points of Information – Matthew

Matthew became one of the original Twelve Disciples when he was called by Christ Jesus. This was recorded by Luke (5:27-28), by Mark (2:14) and by Matthew himself (9:9).

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Immediately after he was called to follow Jesus, Matthew invited Our Lord and Savior to his home for a feast along with a number of his (Matthew's) friends and associates (including other tax collectors). Jesus accepted the invitation and went to Matthew's home, facing criticism from Pharisees, scribes and others. Matthew 9:9-11; Mark 2:14-16; Luke 5:27-30.

Points of Information – Matthew

As he establishes the case for Jesus as the Messiah, Matthew begins the Gospel (Verses 1:1-17) with a genealogical listing – tracing the lineage of Jesus as the Son of God from the Hebrew patriarch, Abraham. Another Gospel writer, Luke, presents a genealogy of Our Lord and Savior (Luke 3:23-38) in a reverse order, and goes all the way back to Adam, presenting Jesus as the Son of Man.

Points of Information – Matthew

Through the aid of the Holy Spirit, Matthew wrote a Gospel which set out to clearly identify Jesus as the Jewish Messiah who had been foretold in Scriptures – and who was descended royally from King David. The primary audience for this message initially consisted of Matthew's fellow Jews.

Points of Information – Matthew

In a fitting closing, the Great Commission (“Go ye therefore...”) – from Christ Jesus – is recorded in the final Verses of the Gospel according to Matthew (28:19-20).

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WHAT ABOUT JOSEPH?

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Lesson Context - 1

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In the first 17 Verses of the Gospel according to Matthew, he provides a genealogy of Jesus: 3 sets of 14 generations each.

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Lesson Context - 2

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In this segment, we see the demeanor and behavior of Joseph in connection with God's plan for the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18 [NLT]

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:19

Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

Matthew 1:20

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:21

And she will have a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:22

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet:

Matthew 1:23

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us’.”

Matthew 1:24

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Matthew 1:25

But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus.

Remember this:

Be prepared to obey God
– no matter what.

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Next Sunday School Live Lesson

April 14, 2024

Hosanna!

Mark 11:1-11

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