

The Gospel of Matthew #7

SENSE AND MYSTERY

Matthew 1:18-25

The Christian Faith is rational and historical. But it also involves much mystery. We must always hold these two things in tension. An example of this is Matthew's account of the birth of Messiah.

I. Joseph's struggle: v18-19

A. The grief and agony of betrayal

B. The confusion and disorientation of deception

II. The angel's revelation: v20-21

A. Supernaturally revealed information

B. Supernatural message!

III. Joseph's peace: v22-25

A. _____ : his fears, grief, and disorientation are resolved

God is doing an unprecedented miracle of grace.

They can now proceed from the *kiddushin* (betrothal) to the *huppa* (wedding).

What relief!

B. _____ : but he cannot **understand** God's ways

- HOW is Mary pregnant by the Holy Spirit?
- WHY is that necessary?
- WHAT IS this unique child who is to be born to her?

You and I need to do the same with Scripture and the Gospel

Eg John 6:37b cf. v27a, 29, 40.

But then 6:37a cf. v44, 65!

Each part makes sense. But together they are a mystery.

So the incarnation. And the Resurrection And the trinity.

And evil. And suffering.

And unanswered prayer.

And the Gospel

Learn from Joseph, and be at peace.