

Jesus—His One Of A Kind Birth

Touching Base – What’s going on in our lives ... any highs or lows?

Reflecting – What have you thought about, applied to your life, or shared with others from our last discussion?

Today’s Topic – Read the passage from the Bible and let’s retell it in our own words.

Matthew 1:18—2:12

¹⁸ *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.* ¹⁹ *Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.* 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.* ²¹ *And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* ²² *All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:* 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.’”* ²⁴ *When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.* ²⁵ *But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.* ¹ *Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,* ² *“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”* ³ *King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.* ⁴ *He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”* ⁵ *“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:* ⁶ *‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”* ⁷ *Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.* ⁸ *Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him,*

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come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Discussion Questions

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
2. What does this passage tell us about people?
3. What else did you learn from this passage?
4. If you believed this was true, what could be the benefits and how might you apply it to your life?
5. What about this passage could you share with someone else, and who might that be?