



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 124 - A Man's Christmas Story! (Matthew 1:18-25)

### She's Pregnant?

Joseph is often the overlooked person in the Christmas story. He shows his loyalty to God, even while he shows concern for the woman who seemed to have betrayed him.

- Why is it so devastating to learn someone you trusted has betrayed you?
- What does it say about Joseph that he was still willing to protect Mary, even when it looked like she had been unfaithful to him?
- How can a person pick up his/her shattered life after a spouse or a betrothed has been unfaithful?

### Angel Tells Joseph to Take Mary as His Wife

We don't know whether Mary told Joseph she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, but God sent an angel in a dream to reveal the truth to him. He reassured Joseph he should go ahead with the marriage and even gave the Child's name to Joseph.

- In what sense was Joseph still taking a big chance to go ahead with his marriage to Mary, even after learning the truth?
- When have you had to put your reputation on the line to do what was right?
- What is comforting to you about Jesus' promise to be Immanuel and with us always?

### Genius or Fruitcake?

Herod the Great was a master politician and builder. He sided with the loser of a Roman civil war (Marc Anthony), yet he landed on his feet and found favor in the eyes of the winner he had worked against (Augustus). His construction projects in Jerusalem and other parts of his kingdom were legendary. But his family life was his undoing. Powerful enemies, a jealous and scheming sister, multiple wives and a house full of manipulating sons drove him mad.

- Describe someone you know who has squandered their gifts and talents by surrounding himself/herself with awful people.
- In what ways are the lives of our politicians similar to the world Herod found himself in?
- Do you know anyone who has become twisted and demented by suspicions and fear?
- Why do some people find it hard to believe a murderous tyrant like Herod could kill the baby boys of Bethlehem?

To learn more about Joseph and Herod, check out the **Men's NetWork** Bible study: *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*.