

Christmas 2021 - Reaction or Response or Revelation?

“Reaction” Mat 1:18-25 ESV Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, **before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.**

- **She was found to be...** - possibly Mary wasn't forthcoming with this info - with child **from Holy Spirit**
- **First reaction like most** - Shock, anger, disbelief - He probably had a hard time believing this
- A cause for **divorce** - a cause for **stoning**

“Reasoned Response” 19 And her husband Joseph, being a **just man** and **unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.**

He was wrestling with what to do - (**unwilling** and **resolved** are 2 very similar words in Greek)

- **UNWILLING** - an active voice - he was determined **He would NOT put her to shame**
- **RESOLVED** - a passive voice - he was **leaning toward or inclined to** divorce her quietly
- The reasoned response was a good and merciful solution, **BUT IT WAS NOT GOD'S WILL**

“Revelation” 20 **But as he considered these things**, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, **do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**

- The angel addressed his fears, uncertainty and all the emotion - **DO NOT FEAR to take...**
- The angel confirmed the truth that the baby was indeed **“conceived by the Holy Spirit”**

The Lord changed Joseph's perspective - now he is able to step into the will of God

21 She will bear a son, and **you shall call his name Jesus**, for **he will save his people from their sins.**" 22 **All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:** 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

- This baby is no longer an illegitimate child - He is the savior of the world **INCLUDING ME (ie Joseph)**
- **You will call his name Jesus - father's prerogative to name the child** (John Baptist's dad)
- He is called Immanuel - God With Us
- **And BY THE WAY - it is a fulfillment of a prophecy that is over 700 yrs old**

He was obedient - IMMEDIATELY - (and continued a life of obedience Matt 2:13-15, 19-23)

24 **When** Joseph woke from sleep, **he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:** he took his wife, 25 **but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.** And he called his name Jesus.

- What is every man waiting for on his wedding night? -- But knew her not until she gave birth to a son
- No one would be able to question this child was born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit
- **He CALLED HIM JESUS** - just as the angel had told him

Response is better than Reaction but knowing and doing God's will is best

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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- 1) Know yourself...(Reactionary? Reasoned Response? Or seek revelation from the LORD?)
 - 2) Know that the will of God can be known & desire the will of God above all
 - 3) In all ways **acknowledge** Him (be aware, consider, discern, discover) & He will direct your paths
 - 4) Grow in a life of obedience to him