

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Elkin, NC

December 10, 2017

Danny Dodds, Pastor

Title: "Preparation for the Birth of Christ"

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

I. THE PREDICAMENT (vv. 18-19)

1. Mary was espoused to Joseph
2. Mary and Joseph were in the one-year waiting period when Mary was found to be with child.
3. Joseph decides to break the engagement (v. 19)

II. THE PHENOMENON (vv. 20-21)

1. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream (v. 20)
2. The angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph (v. 20)

III. THE PROMPT RESPONSE (vv. 24-25)

1. Joseph violated all custom by immediately taking Mary into his home rather than waiting till the one-year time period of betrothal had passed.
2. There was no sexual relationship between Joseph and Mary until after the birth of Jesus.
3. Joseph called the child Jesus as the angel directed.

IV. THE PRINCIPLES

1. Like Mary and Joseph, everyone will face painful, unpleasant, or embarrassing situations in life. However, how one responds to those conditions is essential.
2. One may not always understand what God is doing, but God will always give us direction when we trust Him (*Prov. 3:5-6*)
3. Prompt obedience is always the right response to God's directives.