What else is	s the Spirit (	of God say	ing to you	through this	passage?

## Joseph Gets the Memo



Week 8; Matthew 1:18-25

THE PROBLEM "1 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit."
What do you think that means, "found to be with child"? What impact does that have today when a teenage, unmarried girl is "found to be with child", in our culture, our community; has it happened in your family, what are your own feelings?

THE MISSING INFO REVEALED 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, " Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

What word in verse 19 does not translate for us?\_\_\_\_\_

Why was divorce the "righteous" thing to do in this case? What would have been the "unrighteous" thing to do? (Deuteronomy 22:23-27)	What hard things has God asked of you as a disciple of Jesus? Did you think they were worth it at the time? How about now?
THE PURPOSE 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."	What hard things has God asked of you that you have <u>not done</u> ? How did things turn out as a result?
Look up <b>Isaiah 7:14</b> , where this comes from. What does the context of the passage say about the meaning of this event?	
24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.  Note the contrast with the name being confirmed by the father in this case with Zacharias and his son John (Luke 1:18-20, and 63)?	Heb 3:12-15 says, "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, 15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."
	As a disciple of Jesus Christ we are called to stay on the edge of the Kingdom of God — What difference does this passage make for you and I in our effort at keeping up with the Spirit of God as He brings the "rule of God" into places where it is not?
How easy do you think it was for Joseph to keep his wife a virgin after marrying her? What emotions do you think he went through?	