

Why was divorce the “righteous” thing to do in this case? What would have been the “unrighteous” thing to do? (**Deuteronomy 22:23-27**)

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."

Look up **Isaiah 7:14**, 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**)? _____

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? _____

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? _____

What hard things has God asked of you that you have not done? How did things turn out as a result? _____

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? _____
