

## The Spirit of Christmas Past

**Read:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Main idea:** Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human and He came to save His people from their sins.

**Key Verses:** “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” **(1:21-22 ESV)**

### Key Principles:

- Jesus was born to a virgin mother and an adoptive father by the power of the Holy Spirit just as the Bible describes.
- This type of birth was the only way that Jesus could be born fully human and fully divine.
- If Jesus were not both God and man, then He could never have accomplished the purpose for which He was born, to “save His people from their sins.”
- Trusting in Jesus requires the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives just as it did Mary and Joseph.
- Our Heavenly Father is a faithful God that always keeps His promises to His people.
- The only proper response to the faithfulness of God is to believe, obey and surrender to His will for our lives.

### Discussion:

1. How would the denial of the virgin birth of Jesus affect the gospel message? Why is essential that Jesus was born this way?
2. Can you explain how Jesus’ divine and human natures are different, yet unified?
3. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Jesus? Why do you think this was an important part of the Christmas story?
4. How does the birth of Jesus fulfill the promise of Genesis 3:15? What about Isaiah 7:14?
5. How should Matthew 1:21 shape the way you read the rest of this Gospel? Using this verse, how would you explain to an unbeliever that Jesus is both God and man?
6. When you think about the Christmas story, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we read and celebrate the birth of Jesus?

### Prayer:

- Thank God for His faithfulness in fulfilling His promise of salvation through Jesus.
- Pray:
  - That we grow in our trust and obedience to God’s plan and purpose for our lives.
  - That would reflect Christ’s presence as we follow Him.
  - For opportunities to share the message of Jesus, bring hope to others.

**The Spirit of Christmas Past**  
Matthew 1:18-25

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|-------------|---|----------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>Our Savior was born by the <u>power</u> of God.</b>    | <b>1:18</b>    |
|             | 1. God's Spirit <u>chose</u> His servants.                |                |
|             | 2. God's Spirit <u>conceived</u> His Son.                 |                |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>Our Savior was born for the <u>people</u> of God.</b>  | <b>1:19-21</b> |
|             | 1. God's Spirit <u>uses</u> His servants.                 | 1:19           |
|             | 2. God's Spirit <u>speaks</u> to His servants.            | 1:20-21        |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>Our Savior was born for the <u>purpose</u> of God.</b> | <b>1:22-25</b> |
|             | 1. We must respond with <u>belief</u> .                   | 1:22-23        |
|             | 2. We must respond with <u>obedience</u> .                | 1:24           |
|             | 3. We must respond with <u>surrender</u> .                | 1:25           |

NEXT WEEK:  
**The Spirit of Christmas Present**  
Romans 8:1-11