



I. INTRO

A. Unexpected

- We all have expectations in our thinking of how life is supposed to go

B. Some things we won't understand without faith

Hebrews 11:3 (NIV) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

- This is a reminder that God sees things differently than I do, and if I try to make sense of my life only by my senses, I'll be frustrated

II. THIS IS HOW THE MESSIAH WAS BORN

A. This is how the birth of Christ came about

Matthew 1:18a (NIV) This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:

Matthew 1:17 (NIV) Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

- There were 42 generations of faith that brought Jesus into the earth
- If you don't understand how Jesus came into the world, you will misunderstand why Jesus came into the world.

Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV) But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

- If you don't understand how Jesus came into the world, you will misunderstand why Jesus came into the world.

III. UNEXPECTED

A. The Christmas story

Matthew 1:18 (NIV) This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.



Matthew 1:19-20 (NIV) Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

B. Joseph already had a plan in mind

- If you only have your picture, you'll only consider your plan
- When something unexpected happens – Where did that expectation come from?

C. Now Joseph has a word from God, and a decision to make about what he'll believe

- **what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**
- Now he has a decision to make – What's he going to believe? His senses? Or word?
 - For some the problem isn't your situation, it's your picture