

Well, are you ready for Christmas? Ready or not... it will be here tomorrow! This week we move to the BIRTH section and the verses begin by allowing us to look into the lives of Mary and Joseph. They weren't ready for Christmas...but Jesus was coming!

### **Matthew 1:18-19**

I love how verse 18 begins in the NIV. It says, "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about..." It is straightforward and conversational. Each Christmas I usually at some point find myself thinking about Mary, about how young she was, about her hopes and her dreams for her marriage to Joseph, about her submissive spirit to God's plan that no doubt shocked her beyond what we can probably imagine. I also think about Joseph and his sacrificial and servant attitude. We don't even have to wonder. Mary and Joseph were not ready for Christmas! And yet... Christmas came and God invited them to be a part of it all.

Take a moment and look through some of the phrases of these two verses:

***"His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph but before they came together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit"***

***"Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly"***

Do you see how they had different plans in mind? Do you see how God interrupted their thoughts and plans with thoughts and plans of His own? We are on the other side of the story and can see how things turned out. Mary and Joseph were not. They lived it, with faith and sacrifice and a deep joy, knowing they were partnering with God!

So let's get back to you and me. Has God shown up and been interrupting our plans lately? Is He up to something that doesn't make much sense to us? We can learn from Mary and Joseph. God invited them to be a part of something that they didn't understand, something that interrupted their lives in huge ways. Even though they weren't prepared for Christmas to come, they invited Christmas in, and God did incredible, amazing things!

Perhaps every detail isn't ready for your Christmas celebration tomorrow, that is ok, I am sure you will still enjoy your day! Just make sure you are ready for the real Christmas. When He shows up, adjust your life to His plans and watch God do His work!