

## Vintage Jesus 5

### Was Jesus' Mom Really a Virgin?

*Lecture*

- Well merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! We're gonna talk about Jesus' birth. So you know what? We don't know when he was born. So I just declared this temporary Christmas. That's where we're going with the lecture tonight and so. Thank you for joining us for the Vintage Jesus Lectures. And tonight's question is a real big one. Was Jesus' mom, really a virgin? This will be hopefully helpful to all of you, but how many of you were raised Catholic? Anybody raised Catholic? Welcome to our mass. My name is father Mark. Good to have you. And we're going to get into Jesus' birth and his mother Mary try and make it theological practical and hopefully a little bit of fun. Well, of course the biggest holiday every year is what? What's the biggest holiday? It's Christmas. It's the day when the whole world stops. It's the biggest holiday on planet earth. We shut down school, we shut down business. Everybody travels to see family and friends. It's our big time together to make memories. Jesus' birthday, Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year. When we were little my mom would always make a birthday cake to Jesus. And we would put candles on it and as kids we would sing happy birthday to Jesus, blow out the candles and eat the cake. And so mom you're probably watching thank you for that tradition. And it just reminded us that Christmas is ultimately a global birthday party for Jesus. And so what happens is people then ask the question well we celebrate his birthday every year at Christmas is that actually when he was born? So I want to get into the birth of Jesus in detail. The truth is we have no idea when Jesus was born. Nothing in the Bible tells us. Nothing in church history tells us. Nothing in history tells us outside of church history. We just don't know. The only thing the Bible says in Luke chapter 2:8, that when Jesus was born the shepherds were in the fields. That's all it says. And you've heard that in that old Christmas hymn. The shepherds were in the fields. Well, during the winter months, generally you didn't leave your sheep outside. It was too cold in that area. And so they would have pinned their sheep. That probably indicates that Jesus wasn't born in December. He wouldn't have been likely born in the winter months. And then some ask, well, how did we end up with this date? And it's a bit of an interesting historical study that Christianity spread early on in the Roman empire, which was largely pagan. And Christianity was an outlawed religion until it was legalized by the emperor Constantine around the fourth century. And up until that time the major holidays in the Roman empire, they were all pagan. And so there were two major holidays that intersected, depending upon part of the vast Roman empire you were in and they both landed on December 25th. One was called Saturnalia. The other was called the feast of the unconquered sun. And so basically these were already days off. Everything was shut down. These were considered holidays in the Roman empire. And what the Christians didn't want to do. They didn't want to participate in the pagan holiday and they thought, you know what? We don't know when Jesus was born. We already have the day off. Let's not worship the demon false God, let's worship the real God and make this into a birthday for Jesus. And so what we do know is that there has been historically a bit of a debate about this. And when it comes to issues of things that have a pagan origin. And some people will be like, you can't do Christmas, not on the 25th, it has a pagan origin. The question is how should a Christian interact with something that has a pagan origin? Okay, let me just do this. How many of you drove here in a Volkswagen? Anybody here drive here in a Volkswagen? Like we're in church don't lie. Yes I will make fun of you in a moment. Just raise your hand. How many of you, how many of you drove here in a Volkswagen? Okay. Some of you drove here in a

Volkswagen. Who invented the Volkswagen? The Nazis. You're driving a Nazi vehicle. A Pagan origins. Okay. Right, that's why I'd only pulls to the Reich. So-- I just made that up. I didn't know if that'd be funny. So, so when it comes, probably shouldn't have said that. We may need to edit that out of the final take. Up here, Bible verses, 80s rock and inappropriate comedy. There's just a lot up here, so. And so, so if something has a pagan origin do we immediately need to reject it? Okay. Let me do another one. How many of you celebrate your birthday? Okay. Some of you are like, I did, and then I got old and now I don't. Okay. Do you know that birthdays are in the Bible? There are only two people in the Bible that celebrate their birthday. Pharaoh in the Old Testament, Herod in the New Testament both demonically evil men who murdered people for their birthdays. So happy to you, it's a pagan holiday. Right, I mean. So the question is if something has a pagan origin do we use it, do we not use it? Here, I'll give you another one. This will be fun. We'll just split everyone. Halloween. Okay. We'll just skip it, anyways. There are three ways that you can respond. I saw your faces and I was like, you know I don't want to deal with you. So, when something has a pagan origin. I'll give you three categories for Christians to consider. One, You can receive, two, you can reject, three, you can redeem. So I'll just, I'll do a little dance, dance revolution for you. So receive, reject or redeem, okay. So receive, there are things that are Pagan in their origins that we can receive as Christians. I'll give you some examples like advances in science or technology or medicine. There are things that people using what we'll call common grace. Even if they don't know the Lord they come to some understanding that benefits humanity and we receive that. We receive that. Reject. Particularly on spiritual practices there are certain things we just got to reject. Not far from here is a restaurant. And it was after church on a Sunday recently, my son and I went to get some lunch. My youngest son, our youngest son. And we're bordering right here, native American tribal land. And there's a tribe. And so on this Sunday, they had an outdoor tribal dance and it was full costume and full instrumentation. And they were, they were dancing literally slamming their foot very hard on the ground. My son asked me, he said, "Dad, what are they doing?" I said, that's part of a Native American ritual where they believe that spirits, demonic spirits or departed saints they would call them. We would call them demonic spirits, counterfeit spirits live in the underworld and they're waking them up and they're invoking and calling them up into the present place. He was like, we shouldn't do that. Correct. I'm not sure demons are down there, and if they are, I'd like them to stay. So we have to reject that. If somebody like, do you want to come to my Native American drum circle? No, I do not. Do you want to pray with me in my witchcraft coven? No, I do not. No, I do not. There are certain things that we need to reject, right. The Bible says to receive what is good to reject what is evil. So there are things that, that we can receive like driving a Volkswagen. So for that very nice lady who was the illustration. There are things that we must reject. And then there are things that we can redeem. Meaning the way it's been initially created or being used, isn't godly, but God's people could use it. We could, we could redeem it. Give you a real prominent example. Don't know, if you guys have heard of the internet. It's really catching on. And you can either put out pornography or slander or lies or Bible verses. It's something that can be used for horrible atrocity or great ministry. And so you can redeem it. You can redeem it. That's why we're live-streaming this trying to redeem an opportunity for even social media and technology. And so just think of this for your life. If all you ever do is take things that started with believers who love the Lord. You can't drive a car, live in a house go to the doctor or answer the phone, right. And some of you are like, so we're Amish, I guess. You know, I don't know. The question though is what do we receive? What do we reject? What do we redeem? So let's just do this little conversation. What do you think we

should do with Christmas? Most people would say redeem it. There were a group of Christians that said reject it. They were called the Puritans. They actually worked on December 25th as a form of protest against Christmas because it was a pagan holiday. And truth be told some of the things that we include in modern Christmas celebrations do have pagan origins. I've got this in the notes. But the greenery and the candles and to some degree, the trees were part of the ancient Roman pagan holiday of Saturnalia. It was part of, kind of environmentalistism if you were. The Druids and the British Isles included mistletoe in their pagan rituals. Can you redeem that and kiss your spouse? Can you? Okay, I want my wife to say yes. Okay. Yes, yes, yes. The Saxons used Ivy and Holly and their pagan worship. It is believed that the German Christians were the first to bring the tree inside. And one of the first religious leaders known to do so was Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer. And he quoted Isaiah 60:13 as his proof text. How many of you have heard of St. Nicholas or Santa Claus? St. Nicholas was a, I believe a fourth-century Bishop who voted for the Trinity at the council of Nicea. He loved Jesus. He was a Bible teacher and very strong theologian. And he had a very great love for children. And he was a very generous man. And so he was known to give lots of gifts to children, especially poor children. And so Saint Nicholas, Santa Claus, that is the remembrance of Saint Nicholas. So when our kids were little, for example, their friends' parents would often lie to them about Santa Claus. And they'd say, oh yeah he, go to bed, he sees you when you're naughty and nice. It's like, okay, it's freaking me out. Dude's sort of stocking me a little bit. Crazy old man. And, and he's, and they would, they would use Santa Claus to get the kids to be obedient for a present, okay. And then the kid would finally realize that Santa Claus was what, fake. Like he didn't come down the chimney, and he didn't ride on a reindeer. All of that was made up. And if you didn't know that, I hate to break it to you but that's the fact. And so what we told them, what I didn't want to do is I didn't want to lie my kids. Because if I told them, hey, Jesus sees you when you're naughty and nice and so does Santa. And they're like, oh you, Santa doesn't exist well does does Jesus? I didn't want to confuse them. Right, I didn't want to confuse them. And so when the kids were little it's like, well, we can't just receive Santa Claus. We, I don't want to reject Santa Claus. I mean, who wants to be the I'm against Santa Claus? Like I, you I. I mean, you're the Grinch, right? You're like, I'm not, I don't want to be on that team. So what we decided was let's redeem it. Let's tell them who Saint Nicholas was. He loved Jesus. He was generous. He gave presents. He was a theological defender of our faith. He was a Bible guy and now we kind of dress up and we make believe, and we kind of carry on his legacy. But that's okay as long as you know that it all is honoring the one who honored Jesus. As individuals, we have these decisions to make. And then as you have children, as parents these are the decisions you've got to make. And that received, reject, redeem. This includes all kinds of things. Technology, entertainment, video games, sports, hobbies, holidays, all of it, all of it. And so where it ultimately landed is the majority of Christians decided we can redeem it. We can take these things that were ultimately created by those who are not Christian. You know what God made the trees and God made the mistletoe and God made the whole Holly and Jesus is the light of the world, so we can get a candle. And we can use those things if our hearts love Jesus. I'll give you a verse that comes to mind from the New Testament. So the one who is pure, all things are pure. Meaning it's not just what you're doing out here that does matter. But ultimately in here, in here. So one person could say, I'm lighting a candle in my house to worship a pagan, demonic, false god. And the other says, it reminds me that Jesus is the light of the world. Okay, and this one is pure in their heart and their intentions and their motivations. And so this is some of the discussions that happen in a church. It really gets crazy. Again, like I said, we won't get into it because we're having such a nice time

time together. But Halloween. 'Cause right, now, if I was like receive reject, redeem you would see moms hitting each other. It would be a really. It would be a WWE girl fight. That's what we'd have here right now. And so we're not going to do that. But you know something for you guys talk about at your tables later when I'm gone. Okay, so when we do get into the virgin birth of Jesus what we're getting into tonight is the second most controversial miracle related to Jesus. The most controversial is resurrection from the dead. The second most controversial is his virgin birth. And all of this is to say that you can't have a biblical view of Jesus without the supernatural. You can't. I mean, from his Virgin conception and birth through his miracles, through his resurrection through his ascension, Jesus' whole life is inexplicable apart from the supernatural. We looked at him being spirit filled and spirit led. And so those who try and keep Jesus but remove the supernatural. He becomes just a philosopher or a moral example or a social liberator. That's all he becomes. I think I told you this, but this was Thomas Jefferson who sat down in the white house with a Bible and a razor blade and cut out all the miracles. And he was left with the philosophy of Jesus Christ. And he reduced Jesus down to a philosopher. So all that to say, you can't really have Jesus, according to the scriptures, without the supernatural. I got a few quotes in there, and then we'll jump into what the Bible says. But in a letter sent to John Adams in 1823, the DS Thomas Jefferson said, "The day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus "by the supreme being as his father," he's talking about the Virgin birth, "in the womb of the Virgin will be classified with the fable "of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter." He said, God, having his son born through a virgin that's crazy like those old Greek myths. Just give it some time I'm sure it'll go away. It's all mythology. In addition, Harry Emerson Fosdick. He was the influential pastor at the Riverside Church in New York. He said, "I do not believe in the virgin birth "and hope that none of you do." Can you imagine your pastor telling you that? Jesus wasn't born of a virgin. The Bible's a lie. I don't believe it. You shouldn't either. Right, that's a preacher. It's crazy sometimes. Bishop Joseph Sprague of the United Methodist Church called the Virgin birth a "Myth." The Episcopalian Bishop John Spong said, "In the time the virgin account will join with Adam and Eve "and the story of the cosmic Ascension," that's his return to heaven, "clearly recognized mythical elements "in our faith tradition, whose purpose was not to describe "a literal event." It says these aren't historical realities. These are spirits realities. Jesus didn't rise from the dead, but he lived in their heart. And Christianity is about historical fact like the life, death, burial, resurrection of Jesus. And if Jesus is not historical and all he is is mythical then why in the world do we have Christianity? It seems like a big waste of time for nothing more than greeting card platitudes to live by. The legendary news reporter, Larry King was once asked if he could interview one person in the history of the world. What you think his answer was? Jesus. And then the caller on his show asked him, what would you like to ask him? And Larry King replied I would like to ask him if he indeed was virgin born. The answer to that question would define history for me. That's a really good insight. In his day, Larry King was the preeminent news reporter and interviewer. He was known for his legendary interviews. One person he's like, I picked Jesus. What do you want to ask him? Was your mom a Virgin? If so, then I know the rest of history. And then Marilyn Manson, not really a great theologian but did go to a Christian school. Did go to a Christian school. He says, I hate this nonsense. I'd like to go around and replace baby Jesus in the nativities with a boiled ham. So not everyone looks favorably at we look, at what we look forward to in the Christmas season, okay. So what I want to do now is I want to just ask, okay what does the Bible say? And I want to start in Genesis and I just want to keep on walking through the Bible. So that's where we'll start. What is the Genesis prophecy about the. What does Genesis prophecy rather about the virgin birth of

Jesus? So Genesis one and two first, two chapters of the Bible. God creates everything and man and woman. Genesis three, sin enters the world. God comes and he deals with Adam, Eve and Satan for their sin and their rebellion. And God says this, I will put enmity, that is division, separation between you and the woman. So a clue here is that there's a special woman coming, right. It's going to be Jesus' mother Mary, between your offspring. So this woman is going to have a child. So the hope of humanity is that some woman is coming and she is going to give birth to a child and he will crush your head. So it's going to be a male child. There's a lot of clues here. A woman is going to have a child, that child is going to be a son. And that son's mission is to destroy the devil. To conquer Satan and to forgive sin. That's his mission. So Satan comes as a dragon. Jesus is prophesied as a dragon slayer. When our kids were little, my boys would play with swords and, and Jesus has a sword in Revelation. He comes back as a warrior to defeat the demonic. And ultimately he comes back as a dragon Slayer. He will crush your head. So there's going to be a violent conflict and you will strike his heel. You will harm him, but he will conquer you, okay. Now what's interesting here for those of you that are a little more familiar perhaps with Genesis five, Genesis 11. In Genesis five, 11 and elsewhere, there are things called genealogies. The genealogies say this generation, then that generation and this generation, then that generation. In those genealogies are the matriarchal or patriarchal? Are they through the mom's line or through the dad's line? Always through the dad. This man had these kids and then that man had these kids and then that man had these kids. Question, this is a genealogy, it's a short genealogy. Who's his dad? Not mentioned. This is a curious omission. In the remainder of Genesis it always tells you who their dad is except for this guy. Why? He's not going to have an earthly dad. This is the first intimation of the virgin birth. Everybody else. Here's their dad, here's their mom. This guy, here's his mom. Where'd the dad go? Well, the dad is going to be God the father ultimately. It's where in the New Testament, Paul the Apostle in Galatians 4:4. When the time had fully come. Some translations will say that Jesus came in the fullness of time. That God was working out all of his providential plan for human history. And everything was aligned just in time for Jesus to be born. God sent his son, no earthly father born of a woman but an earthly mother. Get that? Okay, how about the next one? Isaiah, written about 700 years before Jesus was born. And I told you in a previous lecture, Isaiah 40 through 66 is all about Jesus as the suffering servant. But in Isaiah 7:14, we saw this previously. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign." So what God says is wait for this, look for this, right. This is him turning the spotlight on, like here it is, pay attention don't miss. "The virgin, Almah," in the original Hebrew, "will be with child and will give birth to a son, "and will call him Emmanuel." What's the Emmanuel mean? God with us. You guys all saw that on your Christmas card. God, with us. Now, what happens here is certain critics of the Bible will come in and say, no that word means young girl, not virgin. Therefore it doesn't necessarily mean that Jesus' mother would be a virgin. And the truth is there are two Hebrew words that are at work here. One is called betulah that, that simply means young girl. And then, excuse me, that means virgin and then almah means young girl. Because in that culture you could be a virgin, but not a young girl. So there's two words. You're like, why is there a word for virgin, a word for young woman? Well, because you could be an older virgin. It's possible. And in that culture, just so you know, younger women, right, over two and a half thousand years ago in a conservative Bible-based environment those girls were not just young, they were what? They were virgins. It's not like these are two different categories. I'll tell you right now. I've got a daughter she's young and a virgin, okay. And if you have a loving dad who's doing his job most of the time, that's what happens. He protects her from harm. And these two words, and again, we're kind of down a rabbit hole, but it's important

because critics of Isaiah 14, 7:14 rather will say this doesn't refer to a virgin, it refers to a young girl. My argument would be number one in that day young girls were virgins. And number two, the Bible uses these two words interchangeably. I'll give you an example about one young woman named Rebecca. Genesis 24:16, "The girl Rebecca was very beautiful, "a virgin, no man had ever lain with her." Genesis 24:43, a few verses later, Rebecca was a maiden. So she was a virgin and she was young. So it uses both words together. So just because Isaiah is using that word that is used for young woman, it does not in any way mean that she was not a virgin. In this context there were young virgins and older versions. And so they had two different words. And the Bible used the first one correctly because how old was Jesus' mother? Probably a teenager around middle school or high school age. She was a virgin and young. So all was prophesied and fulfilled. And then there's this prophecy of Jesus birth in Isaiah nine and it's pretty spectacular. For to us a child is born, right. It's interesting most of the creeds and confessions say that God became a what? A man. Which means humanity. In Genesis five, it says that God named the race Adam or man, and I get that. When you think about it, it started as a child. We tend to think of man has grown man. Got started as a child. It started actually in his mother's womb as an unborn baby to a poor teenage girl. Tells you something about god's respect for life. For to us a child is born, a little clue here, a what? A son, male child. The government will be on his shoulders. He's going to have a governing, ruling and reigning responsibility. He will be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He's going to have a kingdom. He will reign on who's throne? David's throne. This is interesting. Jesus mother Mary was his earthly mother, but who was his earthly father? His adoptive father, Joseph. Joseph was from what family line? David's. Why did they have to go to Bethlehem to register for the census? Because he was of the household. Joseph, his adoptive father was of the household of David and the hometown of David was Bethlehem. And so when the census came for the Roman government and taxes, if you were part of the family of David you had to go to Bethlehem. We looked at Genesis four or excuse me to Galatians 4:4, Jesus came in the fullest of time. They just so happen, it just so happens that Jesus has an adoptive father who is of the line of David and the government calls a census. So that Mary, while still pregnant has to go with her fiance to Bethlehem, the house of David and there Jesus is born fulfilling the prophecy that he would be of the family line of David and he would take over the kingdom line of David, and the other Old Testament promise that he'd be born where? Bethlehem. All right it's, I mean, you start looking at all of the variables and details that God intersects perfectly at the birth of Jesus. And every single one is fulfilled. And if any were not this would not be the perfect word of God, but it is. Of the increase of his government... He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom. So he's going to be a king over kingdom. Establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on. And how long is he going to reign? It's really good for a king, but a king that has a kingdom that goes forever. The zeal of the Lord almighty will accomplish this. So again the clues in Isaiah, our virgin will give birth to a son, male child. He is going to be from the family line of David. He will come with the power of God. He will establish a kingdom. He will start as a little baby. And when his rule and reign is done it will be forever and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever and ever amen with no end. That's a lot. How about the next one? Jumped to the New Testament. There are two primary gospels in the New Testament that tell us of the birth of Jesus, that is Matthew and Luke. There are four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew was written primarily to a Jewish audience. They knew all of the Old Testament and all of these promises and prophecies. And so they wanted to know is Jesus the descendant of Abraham and does he fulfill all of the promises

and prophecies? So Matthew's gospel is written primarily to Jewish people and it starts with his genealogy. Why? The Jewish people want to know, through Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and the family line and King David and the virgin and Bethlehem. Like we got a checklist for who we're looking for, and we're wondering this guy, Jesus, does he fit the checklist? So Matthew starts right up front. Here's his genealogy. Mark is the shortest gospel. And it has the most present tense active verbs. It's action packed. It's like a, it's like an action film. It doesn't include Jesus' genealogy because in Mark he's writing primarily to the Romans. The Romans were like Americans. They were, they were a nation made up of all kinds of nations and cultures and races, right. So for me, like I'm Irish, I got some French in me. I think I've got a little bit of, I think I've got a little bit of Native American. I mean, I've got a little bit of Scottish in me. And so I'm, I'm a mix of all kinds of different people groups historically. The Romans were like that. So they weren't like, hey, we're Jewish, we got the Old Testament we want. And they're like, I don't know I don't care. All the Romans want to know was did he do the job. Did he live in and rise? Like, it'll get the job done. So it's the shortest gospel most present tense active verbs, but it doesn't include the birth narrative of Jesus. Luke is the chronological gospel. It's written in chronological order. And it's written to Gentiles, non-Jews. And the focus is to show Jesus as the perfect human being. They're less concerned about his Jewishness 'cause they're not Jewish. And so it's chronological and it starts with his genealogy. And unlike Matthew, which traces his genealogy, we'll get all this in a moment, back to Abraham. Luke traces Jesus' genealogy back to Adam. That he is the father of the new humanity. And then John is written to Greeks that are largely philosophical. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Epimenides. They were all part of the ancient root system of Greek philosophy that we study in college. So it doesn't deal with the genealogy of Jesus. Because for them they're like, we don't care if he's Jewish or not, because we're not Jewish. And we're not particularly concerned as to whether or not he is the perfect human. Instead we have all of these questions and we're wondering if he's the answer to our questions. So John starts off in the beginning was the word the word was with God, the word was god. Their concept logos. It goes to the Old Testament in Isaiah, that God is the word. And then it goes all the way back to Heraclitus, who was the founder of Greek philosophy that predated Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Epimenides. And the underlying philosophy that he brought to the Greek world was the logos or the word. And so what John is doing, he's saying, okay, let me take Jesus and connect him as the answer to all your philosophical questions. The result is we get four gospels. The result is Matthew and Luke give us the genealogy and the birth narrative of Jesus. And they will do so with an emphasis toward him being the fulfillment of Hebrew prophecy and or in Luke's case, the perfect humanity. And those are the reasons that Mark and John don't include him. I don't know why? That was just my brain dump. There you go. That's what I was thinking about. So Matthew 1:18 through 24. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. Prior to this Jewish genealogy all the way back to the Old Testament. When his mother, who Mary, okay, was betrothed to Joseph. That language is foreign to us. We have engagement and wedding. Between what we would call engagements and wedding they had something called betrothal. Some cultures still have this. And in betrothal, what you are is you are legally married but not fully covenanted and not fully consecrated. Meaning marriage in the Bible is, it's covenant with God and it's consummation with your spouse. Those are the two elements. It's covenant with God and consummation with your spouse. In betrothal you were covenanted with God but you had not yet consummated with spouse. And so you were considered legally married. And if you wanted out of the agreement you would have to file for divorce, but you have not yet consummated your relationship. So they're betrothed. So think of it

for Joseph in this way. These are probably teenage kids that grew up together in a small town. How many of you grew up in a really small town where everybody kind of knows everybody? That was their town. There was one well, it could only probably satisfy the needs of maybe a hundred people. Small town, rural peasants. Everybody knows everybody. How many of you grew up in a really small town and there's like 15, 20, 30 kids, right? Like you're, if you're going to get married it's like musical chairs. You know, you're hoping this works out and you get a seat. But it means that at a pretty young age if your families are friends and the families it's not totally prearranged marriage. But the families are sort of, you know friends with other families and helping navigate this. At a pretty young age you got a pretty good idea who's on your draft board, right. If you're a football fan, you know what that means. You're like, well, I know what my draft board is. And if Sally's still available, I will take her in the first round. You know and so, and so. Shouldn't have said it that way, but. So what happens is these kids probably know each other from a young age. And so they're betrothed, meaning they've made the announcement to the whole town. Conservative religious environment. We love each other, our parents approve the local spiritual leadership approves. We've made our vows in the sight of god. We've now got our wedding day plan. We're saving up money. There's going to be a big, maybe week-long celebration. And you're all going to be invited. And then they're betrothed. And Mary is pregnant. This puts Joseph in a tough spot, right. Because obviously, what do you think Joseph thinks. The girl of my dreams is the girl in my nightmare. Like I've been waiting for her, you know, however long my life has been. And I've been faithful to her and she's not been faithful to me. And now she's pregnant with somebody else's kid. And I haven't even slept with her yet and she's got somebody else's kid. Now I'm supposed to raise that kid. I don't even know who's kid that is. Now consider that Joseph is probably a teenager, maybe middle school or high school. He's in a tough spot, right. Because the letter of the law in the Old Testament is that if she commits adultery, she can be put to, death. So this, this young man is going from planning his honeymoon to wondering if there'll be a funeral for the girl that he loves. And so he's in a, he's in a precarious situation. Her husband Joseph being what, a good man. You know what this world need, more good men. It needs more good men. And the fact that Joseph is going to marry her and adopt the baby and raise the baby and have everyone make fun of him and tell him that he's an idiot because he's raising somebody else's kid and he married a girl who wasn't faithful to him. You better be a good man. If you're like, you know what, I'll take that. Just, I know that this is God's calling on my life, okay. So I would just say this for the single men that watched this in person or online. Don't overlook the single mothers in front of you. Mary was one, Joseph got a good wife out of the deal. And don't overlook the opportunity to maybe adopt a kid and be their dad. Single mom with a kid. And you're going to have to be a good man to do that. And maybe endure a little bit of opposition, but you're walking really in a good direction because that was Joseph's dad. And I just publicly, you know, just want to honor Joseph. It's like, I'm glad Jesus had a dad. And I'm glad that Jesus dad was a godly man. And I'm glad that Jesus dad stood up, and did the right thing. And that is adopted Jesus and raised him. Because he did a good job with his boy, amen. Did a good job. So we look at Joseph and we say, even if it starts really rough in your marriage or family, that could end up pretty awesome. For them, it started very difficult, very painful, very complicated. Because for us looking back, we're like, oh, she's pregnant of the Holy spirit. And he's like, I, I'm 14 she's pregnant. I don't think this is how that works. Her husband, Joseph being a just man. That means he's a good man. He's a godly man. He's a man of integrity. He's a man who doesn't say much, but he does much. As you read the gospels, Mary says a lot more than Joseph does. He doesn't say much, but he does much. For those of you that

are the godly strong, resilient, love the Lord, faithful, dependable men. You're like Joseph. He didn't say much, but he did much. And we live in a day when guys say a lot and they don't do a lot. So we really respect the guys who do a lot. He was a guy who did a lot. Her husband, Joseph being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame. What's he thinking about? Her. Does he love her? Oh yeah. Oh yeah. He's like, I love her. She cheated on me. She's carrying another man's baby. We're in a small town. We've got a wedding date set. Everybody knows. Oh gosh. Look, I'm sorry that we're in this situation. Here's what I know. I still love you and I don't want to hurt you, I don't want to damage you, and I don't want to ruin your reputation. I'm going to try and find a way to, to not get stuck in this situation, but not to harm you as a result. How many guys wouldn't be like Joseph thinking about her? Joseph isn't thinking about himself. He's thinking about her. This shows you that he really loves her. 'Cause in his moment of greatest devastation he shows to her the depth of his devotion. It's really remarkable. I think we don't talk enough about Joseph. Unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce or what. Quietly, we'll cancel the announcements. We'll send the florist back. No more cake. We don't need to make a big to-do. Let's just sort of quietly get out of this. I'm not looking to shame you, shame your family or even put your life in danger. He's a good guy. Can you imagine how anxious Mary is? Like I was going to get married now I'm pregnant and he's going to divorce me. And we haven't even had our honeymoon yet. Is Mary doing the right thing? Yeah. Is Joseph doing the right thing? Yes. The only way this is going to work is if God gets involved. Let me tell you this, if the husband and the wife do the right thing god gets involved, sometimes supernaturally. That's what you're going to see here. They're not trying to control the outcome. They're trying to obey the Lord. This is the key to any healthy family system. And sometimes we can be so familiar with the story that we're kind of shocked by how complicated it is. An angel of the Lord appeared to him. How awesome is that? God's like I'll clean this up. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. A vision is when you're awake. A dream is when you're asleep. It's God revealing. We believe in all that supernatural stuff. Saying Joseph, son of David, that's the fulfillment of the prophecy. Do not fear. Do not fear to take Mary as your what? As your, as your wife. For that, which is conceived in her is from the Holy spirit. Angel means messenger. He's delivering God's mail. She will bear what? A son. Here we go. His name will be Jesus. That's a derivative of Joshua. For he will what, what's his job going to be? He's going to save people from sins. Joseph, I'm sending you my son and I need you to be as dad. So you're going to father, the son of God. I know it's a tall ask, but, we need to forgive the sins of the world. So this kid's going to need a dad, okay. I didn't mean to get down this rabbit with you all. I get up and teach and sometimes I just kind of feel led. I feel led to say this, if Jesus needed a dad, everybody needs a dad. Jesus was sinless and perfect and filled with the Holy spirit and needed a dad. Okay, so for those of you men that are fathers or God gives you the honor someday to be a father or you aspire to be a father. Let me just say this. If Jesus was a kid who needed a dad, then kids need dads. And Joseph is going to be that dad. And if you're a dad who loves your kid, guess what, you're following in the footsteps of Joseph, and we want to honor that, we want to honor that. She will bear a son, and you call his name Jesus he's going to save people from their sins. All this took place to what? Fulfill. What the Lord had spoken by the prophet. He quotes what, Isaiah 7:14. Again the Jewish people who received Matthew were like did he fulfill the Old Testament stuff or not? Well, here's the genealogy and here's what happened and here's the verses that he fulfilled. Jesus checks the punch list of everything you were waiting for according to the scriptures. Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God with us. Angel tells him that verse you studied in, you know, it

wouldn't have been Sunday school for them. It would have been Saturday school. But that verse you studied in Saturday school. You're like, okay, kids repeat after me in Hebrew the virgin will give birth to a child, he's like that's your girl. This is a lot, right. How many of you got a 14-year-old kid? You're like I won't give him a phone, let alone a baby, who's God. You know, I won't give him the pet. They can't handle that level of responsibility. These are great kids. Joseph did, as the angel Lord commanded him. Here's what we know about Joseph. God tells him to do something what does he do? Exactly what he was told. Okay. You don't need to be a genius, you just need to be obedient. Okay. Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded. He took his wife and then here's the key, but he knew her not. What is that? Consummation? So they're betrothed. So they're in covenant. No consummation, but he knew her not until she had given birth to a son. We'll get into this in a moment. They had no intimate relations till the son Jesus was born and then they consummated their marriage. So Mary was a virgin through the conception and the birth. And They called his name Jesus. Okay. How about Luke's gospel written to those of us who are Gentiles. Says the, and this is the historical record in historical order. The angel Gabriel, only two angels named in the Bible Gabriel and Michael, and then Satan is the fallen angel. So technically that would be the third Again, angel means messenger. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth. That was the small town that Mary and Joseph grew up in. To a what? A Virgin, betrothed, there's all of it. To a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David. All the prophecy getting fulfilled. He keeps stressing it. The Virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her, the angel did. Greetings oh, favored one, the Lord is with you. This is a big day for a teenage girl in the middle of nowhere, right. I mean, this is small town, rural. Nobody ever comes to their hometown. An angel shows up. We don't know exactly why God chose this couple. They are young, but they are godly. And sometimes it's, it really is more about your godliness than your age. So Paul tells Timothy don't let anybody look down on you just because you're young, set an example. Here, they're young but they're godly and they're going to do a great job. They'll do an amazing job. He came her and said, greeting oh favored one the Lord is with you. But she was what? How many of you ladies would freak out if you're in middle school, and an angel shows up and says, you're going to have a baby. This is a reasonable freak out, amen. It's not lack of faith. It's like, huh, she was troubled. Because she's got her wedding on the calendar. How many of you ladies, right. You're looking forward to your wedding day. You're single. You've been practicing since you were this big putting on a white dress, right. I know you ladies. You've been practicing for a long time. And you're like, that's it, I got my dress, I got my date. Yay, everything's perfect. Okay, you're going to get pregnant, huh. I mean that wasn't the script. Gabriel, come back after we've consummated. Give us a baby. We're cool. Can we negotiate? No, she doesn't do that. She was greatly troubled. The angel said to her, do not be afraid. There's fear, reasonable fear. Mary for you have found what? Favor, grace. The grace of God on Mary's life is going to be the one thing that destroys her reputation. God might give you grace and then other people might consider that a curse. So later on, they come to Jesus and they're having an argument, the religious leaders are. And they say, at least we know who our father is. What is that? That's an attack on his mom. So Jesus says, yeah, your father's the devil. Bazinga. But this grace that God gives, this blessing that God gives, becomes the one thing for the rest of her life everyone attacks Mary's character about. How hard do you think that had to be as a woman? The Lord chose me. I fulfill scripture. My son is the savior of the world. And everybody thinks that I'm an immoral woman, who conned a foolish man into marrying me so that I could make him raise another man's baby and he doesn't even know who the father ultimately is. It just goes to show, you need to know that God has called you so you can endure

whatever costs your calling requires. Some of you love Jesus and family and friends have really turned against you. Said and done that which is evil and vile against you. And you're like, but I, God has graced me. And the thing that I find is such a treasure is the thing that causes you to hate me so much. Okay. So the grace that she feels from God is not the grace that she receives from others. You have found, favor or grave with god. You will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great. Will be called the son of the most high. Again, the genealogy in the Bible is always the son of so-and-so and the son of so-and-so and the son of so-and-so. Jesus is the son of God. This is why if you tell a Muslim that Jesus is the son of God, you will have an argument. They do not believe that Jesus is the son of God. Jesus is the son of god. Like father, like son And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. So there was a kingdom that came up under David that ultimately Jesus would be King over that kingdom and King over all kingdoms. And he will reign over the house of Jacob, again fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy about the familial line forever and of his kingdom, there'll be no end. He's going to rule and reign forever. And Mary said to the angel perfectly reasonable question. How will this be since I'm a virgin? Ladies is this a fair question? Angel is like, you're gonna have a baby. She's like, how? Like 'cause I love the Lord and Joseph loves the Lord and we're not married and we've not slept together or we're not allowed to sleep. Like where's the baby come from? And see we can read the story and we've read it so much we're like, oh the virgin gave birth. Well the first time she heard it it was kind of a thing for her, right. She's trying to connect the dots. How will this be since I am a virgin? So she is a virgin and the angel answered her. The Holy spirit, it's going to be a miracle. You can't separate Jesus from the supernatural. You just can't. The Holy spirit will come upon you. The power of the most high will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called Holy without sin. The son of God, only one in that category. For nothing will be impossible with God. And Mary said, this is amazing. Behold I'm what? I serve the Lord. Whatever he wants my answer is yes. So let me just ask this quickly. Ladies what things would keep you from immediately saying yes? He's not going to marry me. They could put me to death. I'm going to be single mom. Everybody in town is going to think horrible things about me. I'm in a highly religious, small town environment. This is going to be, this could be a horrible life. My parents might even disown me. How am I going to make it? Here's what Mary says, yup I'm the servant of the Lord. If that's what he wants, that's what I'll do. And then in context, she sings a worship song. She's filled with the Holy spirit and sings a worship song. How many women it's like, I'm going to wreck your life and make it hard. They're like, great, let me write a song. That's Mary. I mean, she's amazing, right? If this was your daughter, wouldn't you be like I'm so proud of her. Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks. God's going to give her a hard assignment. Out of her heart is I'm the servant of the Lord. Let it be according to your word and then the angel departed. Okay. That's the story. I'll hear your questions in a moment. Let me, eight things that the scriptures do not teach about the birth of Jesus. We've looked at the major text and then what happens is there's kind of theological confusion that comes around the virgin birth and I'll hit them quickly. Number one, scripture does not teach that Mary did not have a normal birth. I was raised Catholic. I love Catholics. They're not a cult. There are denomination of Christianity that I would have some disagreements with. But many Catholics love Jesus and I will be with them in heaven forever. But one of, so the Catholics really have added some odd teaching about Mary. How many of you grew up Catholic? And you heard some odd stuff about Mary. One of them was that she didn't have a normal delivery, that it was like a divine C-section. Okay, no I'm not making this up. And in Micah 5:2 and three, here's the Old Testament prophecy. But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, so the

town of Bethlehem, though, you are small among the clans of Judah, little town. Out of you will come from me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times. In the Hebrew it's eternity. So from eternity, someone's coming to Bethlehem. Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. So the prophecy again in Micah chapter five verses two and three is that someone from eternity is coming to Bethlehem and there a woman is going to go through labor and give birth. Every indication is natural, regular, normal birth, okay. But what Catholics want to do in some regards, they're trying to elevate Mary up and in some regards. One Pope in recent years actually called her co-mediatrix and co-redemptrix. That Jesus mediates with Mary, between us and God. And Jesus redeems us along with Mary. And so they add some things to Mary that are not biblical and not helpful and not truthful. And sometimes it's because, and this will be a controversial statement. But I've traveled to enough nations in the world in a lot of places, particularly on the outskirts of Israel through Greece and Turkey, there was, there was something called the mother goddess. And she was considered the mother of fertility and she would bless your crops. And they have the worship of the mother goddess. And sometimes where Catholicism is spread, they'll take the love of the mother goddess and almost start to apply that to Mary and re-invent her as a mother goddess with Jesus as the ruling and reigning God, and then her as the second in command. And it's a pagan way of taking folkloric local religion. I saw this in the Anatolian region when we traveled through Turkey with an archeologist some years ago. They kept telling us, oh they worshiped the mother goddess here and sometimes she's called Diana. There are different names for the mother goddess. But what they will do to make Christianity more appealing to the local folk culture is they'll take Mary and they'll elevate her into the position of what they had as the mother goddess. Number two, scripture does not teach that Mary remained a virgin for life. How many of you grew up Catholic like me, and you learned to pray to Mary and the prayer to Mary was blessed Mary, ever virgin. The word there, *Semper Virgo*. It's the Latin phrase, means ever virgin. Okay. Was Mary a virgin when Jesus was born? Yes. Was she a Virgin for the remainder of her marriage to Joseph? No. Because actually technically, biblically, they wouldn't even be married unless they consummated. The two become one flesh. It's a covenant with God consummation with spouse. If you have filled out the paperwork, but not consummated the marriage, you're not one flesh. It doesn't count as a biblical marriage. And this phrase, *Semper Virgo*, it arose in the second century. It became popular in the fourth century. It was voted for at the second council of Constantine in 553. And then Christians started referring to her as ever virgin. Origin, Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Wesley, the second Helvetic confession and the Genevan Bible all refer to Mary as ever virgin. And in first Corinthians seven, it says regarding marriage do not deprive one another, but by mutual consent. And if you get married and you refuse to be intimate with your spouse for your entire marriage, you technically don't have a biblical marriage. And in addition, if you say you're married, you're in sin because part of marriage is the intimacy that the two become one flesh. And so all of this is, because part of it is people have a hard time thinking that marriage and marital intimacy could be Holy and godly and good. So they're like we can have Mary, you know with her husband. It's like, well, that's something with your mind that is wrong, that's not something with the Bible that is wrong. Because if God says to keep the marriage bed Holy guess what the marriage bed is? It's Holy. It's not unholy. And when a husband and wife are intimate it's a Holy thing, not an unholy thing. So anybody that would look and say, oh, I'm sure Mary is, you know, I'm sure her and Joseph didn't do stuff, it's like they did. And if you have a problem with that you are the one with the problem. Amen. And I'm sure Joseph would agree with me on all of these points. Some church fathers like Tertullian

and Irenaeus did not agree with Semper Virgo. And then we, there's roughly a dozen places in the Bible. I don't have time to get into all of them. It says that Jesus had brothers and sisters. Where did they come from? The marriage and Mary having other babies, okay. And so, we look at Mary and we say she is a Holy godly woman, she was. She was when she was a virgin single. She was when she was, a non-virgin wife. She's still Holy, she's still, she's a godly woman. She's an amazing woman. Scripture does not teach that Jesus virgin birth was a myth taken from other religions. We'll just hit this briefly. We looked at the intimation in Genesis 3:15 and then we looked at the clear depiction in Isaiah 7:14. That was 700 years before Jesus was born. It said that the virgin would be with child. The Greek mythology and pagan myths that gives some indication that may be some God. And these are gods. I wrote some of the names down. These are Greek, pagan mythical gods like Zeus and Hercules and Apollos and Ion and Pythagoras. These are Greek mythology. And nobody ever thought that they actually lived. It's like our version of Superman and Batman. You know, they're like superheroes in the Greek world. But furthermore most of the Greek myths come after Isaiah 7:14, which means that if anything was borrowed it was the pagans who stole idea from the Bible because the Bible gives the concept of a virgin birth before there's anything that even resembles that in pagan mythology. So chronologically it's impossible. Scripture does not prove, does not teach the belief that the virgin birth proves the deity of Christ. Some will say he had an earthly mother, a heavenly father that proves he's God. Certain Christians like Gregory the great said this, the Bible doesn't plainly state this but there are some heretics. There was an ancient heresy called Aryanism. We dealt with it in one of the first few lectures. It today manifests itself in the Jehovah's witness cult. And they would say that along with some Muslims that Jesus was born of a virgin, but he was not God. So Jehovah's witnesses and Muslims would say he was born of a Virgin, but he's not God. So it's not necessarily that the virgin birth conclusively, biblically, theologically proves his divinity. He is God. And there are other ways to defend that as we looked at in one lecture. Scripture does not need it, does not teach the Jesus virgin birth was needed to keep him from having a sin nature and therefore being sinless. Agustin, Ambrose, Aquinas, Luther all said that sin was passed through the male line. Therefore he could not have an earthly father but he could have an earthly mother. Now the Bible does say first Corinthians 15:45 that there is Adam and Jesus is the last Adam. Romans 5:12 through 21 says because of one man's sin, the whole race fell. So Adam is the head. And when he makes a decision all of humanity is complicit in his decision. But question, are women's sinners too? Ladies, testify. Yes or no? Yes. So, you know, 'cause as a dude I'm like, look I know I'm a sinner, but I know I'm not alone. I know this is a tag team sport here, this sin thing. And so, you know, it says in Psalm 51:5 behold I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Okay. What happens then is some will go so far as to say some Catholic teaching will say that not only was Jesus sinless, but his mother was sinless. And not only was Jesus born of a virgin but so was his mother. Okay. How many of you were raised Catholic and you've heard these things? It's not, Mary's a godly woman but she's not the God woman. And Jesus is not just a godly man, he's the God man. They're different. In addition, is Mary ever portrayed as a sinner? Yeah. When Jesus is little, they take him to the temple to offer a sacrifice. Who alone offers a sacrifice at the temple? A sinner, 'cause it's a sacrifice for sin. So if Mary and Joseph they're bringing the sacrifice that's what sinners do for their sin. She's publicly stating I'm a sinner, I need forgiveness. She says in her song in Luke, when she receives notice that she's going to give birth to the savior. She says, my soul rejoices in God, my savior. Who needs a savior? A sinner does. Jesus never needs a savior. He is the savior. He's sinless he doesn't need a savior. Mary says she's needing a savior that means that she is a

sinner. Furthermore, early on in the book of Acts we see Mary numbered among the members of the New Testament worshiping Jesus as God. She's a forgiven sinner. Scripture does not teach. How many of you were raised in Mormonism? Hey, we're here in the Valley there's a lot of it. The church of Christ, The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints is the new marketing. Right, culture-like, yeah, that Mormon thing. Hey, let's call it the church of, which it's not. It's a cult not a church. It's an offshoot of Christianity. It's not faithful to Christianity. But one of the things that they teach is that Mary had literal physical relations, sexual intimacy with God the father. How many of you have heard this? Any of you grow up Mormon, you hear this? This is their teaching. Not that God became a man, but that men become gods. Which is the first lie that Satan told you can become like god. Therefore a man can become a God, get his own planet, polygamous, multiple wives, get them all pregnant and that's how he populates his planet. And I'm like, okay, for a dude I get, that might be a heavenly picture. I'm not sure any woman who was like I want to be eternally pregnant in a harem, that's. Lord any day now, please take me there that's where I want to be forever, okay. They tell you this religion was not invented by a woman, amen. Eternal pregnancy and polygamy. No woman was like, that's a great idea forever, yay. No, okay. And so what they will teach is that that there was a God of this planet who literally had physical relations and impregnated Mary so that then Jesus could be his son and get his own planet to rule and reign. God the father did not have physical relations because God the father is not a physical being, okay. He's a spirit being. And furthermore, that would mean that Mary was not a what? I'll just tell you, I shouldn't say this. But if you are married to a woman and you have not yet consummated the relationship and some divine human being does, she's not a virgin. She's consummated this relationship. That's, all of this is just demonic and false teaching. And that's Mormonism. It's a cult, it's demonic. Scripture does not teach that Jesus virgin birth is unimportant. Some books come along and they say, I don't know. You know, it's a miracle. Sure, it's a little controversial. Certain people think you're crazy. So, you know, can we just not talk about. It's not a big, it's not a primary issue it's a secondary issue. It's not a closed-handed issue it's an open-handed issue. Which is it? It's closed. Because the Bible told us that the savior would be a male son born of a virgin woman. And if Jesus doesn't fit those criteria then Jesus is not God. And therefore Jesus is not the fulfillment of scripture. Therefore it is a closed-handed issue. Furthermore, let's just consider the alternative. Did Jesus say he was God? Oh yeah, we looked at that in the previous lecture. Did Jesus' mother eventually join the early church and support her son's claim to be God? Yes. And two of his brothers James and Jude wrote books of the New Testament. So now the whole family is launching his spiritual movement. And if at the base of it, the woman who is the mother of this son and these sons is a conniving, ungodly, immoral liar, pathological and manipulative. Does that change the story of Jesus? Now the story of Jesus is a con woman lied about God. She fooled everyone. She was very ungodly and immoral. She raised a son who started a cult and it got launched by her and her sons and their cousin, John the Baptizer. The lying woman launched a cult with her family. Let me tell you, just so you know, that's a different perspective on Christianity. As opposed to she is a godly woman who was an honest woman, who raised an honest son, who was the son of God and their family together walked in the will of God. The story really changes. And lastly, scripture does not teach that Mary should be venerated or ignored. In Catholicism, she is oftentimes venerated. And that means that she is sung to, prayed to. Right. How many of you grew up Catholic and you were taught to pray to Mary? I remember as an alter boy, I went to Catholic school for a few years and I was an alter boy serving mass with a priest. And at one church I served mass in right at the high point above the altar at the center of the church was Mary, not Jesus. She was venerated. We

were told to pray to Mary. We were told to venerate Mary. The result is that when I became a Christian and met Jesus to be honest in my heart, I was really frustrated with Mary. I was like you kind of stole some of your son's glory and you put yourself up as vice-president and you know it seems like you kinda didn't stay in your lane. You were the mother of God, you went not the other god. There's a difference between the mother of God and the other God. And so for a while, my heart soured a little bit toward Mary and then I started studying the Bible and what I realized is that Mary is not to be our object of faith, but she is to be to quote Martin Luther, our example of faith. So I kind of went from pray to Mary to frustrated with Mary, to the biblical position which is not to ignore her or to venerate her but to appreciate her and to learn from her. Mary is an incredible woman. So Joseph is an incredible man. So if Catholics go too far adding too much to the story of Mary I would say that Protestants don't go too far. In fact, we don't go far enough. We probably don't talk about Mary enough. We probably don't appreciate her enough. We probably don't value her enough. In closing, how helpful would Mary be as an example to young women right now? Like if you're, if you're raising a daughter would it be a good idea to say, study Mary and follow her example. Like love the Lord, maintain your purity, you know, find a man that loves the Lord and loves you and then find God's will for your life. And no matter what, walk in God's will and you know love your family and together do ministry and expand the kingdom of God like Mary did. Good example, right. I mean better than any girl on Disney right now. All right. Okay. Joseph, would he be a good example for young men? Work hard, stay pure, find the girl of your dreams, do it right, honor our family, keep your hands to yourself. Get married, even if it's hard. Provide, love, lead, protect, and be devoted to that woman above yourself no matter what. I would tell my sons, look at Joseph and learn from that guy and follow in his example. So the story of Mary and Joseph is that ultimately neither of them are the object of our faith, but ultimately they're both great examples for our faith. And in our day it would be great if young men really aspired to be like Joseph by the grace of God. And if young women aspired to be like Mary, by the grace of God, and aspired to raise children who love Jesus and serve the kingdom of God as Mary and Joseph did.