

Parent Child Relationships Based on Birth of Jesus

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What We Will Learn

- Interactions between Mary and Joseph
- And God through angels
- Prior to birth of Jesus
- Help understand parent-child relationships
- And God's approach
- To human opportunities
- Matthew 1 and Luke 1

Birth of John the Baptist

- Angel talks to Zechariah
 - Wife Elizabeth will bear a son
 - You will name him John
- At John's naming ceremony
 - Relatives disagreed with mother over name
 - Father made final decision—his name is John
- Helps us understand parental interactions
- Regarding birth of Jesus
- Luke 1:11–13 and 57–64

Luke 1 (NIV)

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

13 But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.

Luke 1 (NIV)

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah,

Luke 1 (NIV)

60 but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

61 They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.

Luke 1 (NIV)

63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.

Based on Interactions at “Birth of John”

- Relatives and neighbors
 - Celebrated birth of a child
 - Gathered to circumcise and name the child
- Naming a child was reserved for the father
- Mother could deputize
- But under supervision of relatives

Mary's Conception with Jesus

- Virgin engaged to be married to Joseph
- Angel informed her
- She will be conceived of the Holy Spirit
- To bear a son to be named Jesus
- She accepted
- Luke 1:26–38

Luke 1 (NIV)

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1 (NIV)

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Luke 1 (NIV)

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1 (NIV)

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1 (NIV)

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

37 For no word from God will ever fail.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Joseph's Predicament

- Mary, his fiancée was pregnant
- Without his participation
- Law required he divorce her
- He did not want to disgrace her
- Considered divorcing her quietly
- Matthew 1:18–19

Matthew 1 (NIV)

18 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.

19 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.

Angel Explains to Joseph

- Do not be afraid
- To take Mary home as your wife
- Her conception is of the Holy Spirit
- She will bear a son
- And you will name him “Jesus”
- Joseph accepted
- Matthew 1:20–25

Matthew 1 (NIV)

20 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.

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1 (NIV)

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1 (NIV)

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Joseph Accepts Appointment As Earthly Father of Jesus

- God appointed Joseph father of Jesus
 - Take Mary home as your wife
 - She will bear a son
 - And you will name him “Jesus”
- Joseph accepted
 - When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife [Matthew 1:24]

Significance of Joseph's Fatherhood of Jesus

- Joseph was descendant of David
- David was descendant of Abraham
- Birth of Jesus as son of Joseph
- Fulfills God's promise to Abraham
 - “...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” [Genesis 12:3]
- Descendant of Abraham through Joseph

Significance of Joseph's Fatherhood of Jesus cont'd

- Parenthood is an appointment from God
- He chooses the appointment process
 - Biological interaction
 - Marriage to someone already a mother
 - Marriage to someone already a father
 - Adoption or other non-biological process
- Parent-child or child-parent responsibility
- Not affected by appointment process

Other Lessons:

Freedom of Human Choice

- God presents opportunities to a person
- With freedom to accept or reject
- Angel Gabriel explained Mary's offer to her
- Then left after she accepted
- Angel explained Joseph's offer and left
- Joseph later chose to accept

What We Learned

- Parenthood is an appointment from God
- Through biological or non-biological means
- Joseph appointed father of Jesus
- Through marriage to Mary
- Birth of Jesus fulfills promise to Abraham
- Son of Joseph, descendant of David
- God provides opportunities
- Allows recipient freedom of choice