



# DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 1:18-25 – The *present* King

**PLEASE READ** – Matthew 1:18-25

## GETTING STARTED

There's a whole load of names in the first part of the chapter, and a whole load of remarkable things reported in this second section. But the focus has to be on Jesus, right? ... so how would you *show* that from the chapter itself?

### Focusing (for a moment) on Joseph ...

Consider these two translations of Matthew 1:19:

Because Joseph her husband was <i>faithful to the law</i> , ...	(NIV)
And her husband Joseph, being <i>a just man</i> ...	(ESV)

Based on how he approaches the problem he is faced with, which of these do you prefer?

21<sup>st</sup>-century British society is clearly very different from the Judea of Joseph's day. What do you make of the legally binding "betrothal" (far stronger than our "engagement" – it has to be ended by a *divorce*!) way of doing things? Some pros, some cons?

So Joseph is "a just man". How does this show itself in ...

- i) his thinking to divorce Mary "quietly"?
- ii) his relationship to Mary during the remainder of her pregnancy?
- iii) his simple obedience to the angel's specifying the name "Jesus"?

### But returning to the focus of the Bible, Jesus himself ...

How important is it that Jesus "is from the Holy Spirit" (20)?

[Hint: think "big theology" here! What do we understand by "original sin"?  
Why must Jesus be free from this? – see 1 Corinthians 15:22]

How important is it that Jesus fulfils "what the Lord had said through the prophet" (22)?

Of all that could be said about the various things Jesus would do, why does the angel only refer to this one point, "he will save his people from their sins" (21)?

Aren't other things also significant?

What about if you are not one of "his people"?

How do you understand that apparently simple word "sin"? See Matthew 22:34-40

Does it excite you that "God is with us"? (23)