



Pastor Todd Schlechty
December 18, 2016

The Nightmare Before Christmas
Matthew 1:18-25

Advent = _____

- We _____ Christ's coming in Bethlehem as a baby.
- We open ourselves to Christ's coming through the Spirit.
- We prepare for Christ's second coming as King and Judge.

The best Christmas starts with a person who shows compassion.

The Dream that made Christmas:

I. Christmas begins with _____.

Matthew 1:18-19 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly.*

- Ancient Hebrew marriage customs –
- Joseph – *a righteous man* -
- Compassion -

II. Christmas begins with _____.

Matthew 1:20-23 *But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."*

III. Christmas begins with _____.

Matthew 1:24-25 *And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

Point:



Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. How do you prepare for the best Christmas? What is the best start of a great Christmas?
2. When you are confronted with a dilemma in life how do you react? Do you ask where is God in this? What dilemmas are you facing now? What does it look like to consider this issue from God's perspective? What does God have to say about your dilemma? What does the gospel say about what I am facing? What does redemption look like in this situation?
3. When do you listen to God? How? How does God speak to you?
4. Where is God calling you to act with compassion? Where is God calling you to act with spiritual consideration? Where is God calling you to act with conviction?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org to set up an appointment.