

**Title:** No Way, No Sway

**Text:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Target:** Our doubts when confronted become the place of greatest expression of conviction.

- I. **Joseph's Complication:** *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way."* (Vs. 18)
  - A. **Already Engaged:** *"betrothed to Joseph"* (Vs. 18)
  - B. **Public Embarrassment:** *"before they came together"* (Vs. 18)
  - C. **Planned Estrangement:** *"And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly."* (Vs. 19)
    1. **Just Man:** Person of character and reputation.
    2. **Unwilling:** Didn't follow tradition.
    3. **Resolved:** Preventing Retribution.
- II. **Joseph's Consideration:** *"But as he considered these things..."* (Vs. 20)
  - A. **Heavenly Interruption:** *"Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream..."* (Vs. 20a)
  - B. **Personal Invitation:** *"Saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"* (Vs. 20b)
- III. **Joseph's Confirmation:** *"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* (Vs. 21)
  - A. **Mission Revealed:** *"he will save people from their sins"*
  - B. **Prophecy Fulfilled:** *"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)"* (Vs. 23)
  - C. **Decision Sealed:** *"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife."* (Vs. 24)
    1. **Married her:** *"took his wife"* (Vs. 24)
    2. **Honored her:** *"but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."* (Vs. 25)

**Takeaway:** Every encounter with Jesus requires a personal decision.