

CHRISTMAS – Part I
“When Things Don’t Go as Planned”
Reference: **Matthew 1:18-25**
Pastor Larry Webb

No other fact in the Christmas account is more important than the virgin birth of God’s Son, Jesus. The virgin birth must have happened exactly as Scripture says it did, or Christmas has no point at all.

Joseph and Mary were betrothed. Betrothal was a legal, binding _____ . The betrothal period was the actual time period that this marriage contract was in effect; which would have been 10 to 12 months. After the betrothal period, there would be a wedding _____; and then, after the ceremony, the marriage would be consummated in the sexual _____.

If someone hasn’t remained morally chaste but now wants to change then he or she should consider:

- Receiving Jesus and His _____ for sexual indiscretion.
- Committing to being _____ moving forward until marriage.

Jesus is **God incarnate**. This word “incarnation” comes from the Latin word that means “_____.”

There are four means of acquiring a human body:

- 1) without a man or woman, as _____ was
- 2) with a man, but without a woman, as _____ was
- 3) with a man and a woman, as _____ are
- 4) with a woman, but without a man, as _____ was

Once Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he had two legal options available to him:

- He could have required Mary to be a _____ .
- He could put her away _____ .
In the Greek language, “*to put her away*” meant _____ .

Joseph and Mary’s original plans were radically changed. There are three things to remember if our plans don’t go as planned:

ONE is God might be using this change of plans to get _____ .

verse twenty (see screen)
References: **Psalms 81:13** (see screen)

TWO is God is demonstrating that He has a _____ and _____ plan.

Reference: **I Corinthians 2:9** (see screen)

Notice two things about this better plan:

- His plan is sometimes _____ than our plan.
- His plan is sometimes _____ than our plan.

THREE is God wants us to _____ Him and His better plan.

Reference: **Proverbs 3:5, 6** (see screen)