

**CHRISTMAS – Part I**  
“When Things Don’t Go as Planned”  
Reference: **Matthew 1:18-25**  
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No other fact in the Christmas story is more important than the virgin birth. The virgin birth must have been exactly as Scripture says it was, or Christmas has no point at all.

Joseph and Mary were betrothed. Betrothal was a legal \_\_\_\_\_. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ union.

Jesus is God incarnate. This term “incarnation” comes from the Latin word that means “enfleshment”, or “to be made \_\_\_\_\_.”

There are four ways someone can get 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 made Mary a \_\_\_\_\_
- he could put her away \_\_\_\_\_  
This phrase “to put her away” in the Greek language meant \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph and Mary’s original plans were 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**, “...*behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.*”

God speaks to us through four basic means:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reference: **Psalm 81:13**, “*Oh, that My people would **listen to Me...***”

Reference: **Psalm 46:10**, “***Be still and know that I am God.***”

TWO is God is demonstrating that He has a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ plan

Reference: **Jeremiah 29:11** (see screen)

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

Notice two things about this better plan:

- sometimes His plan is \_\_\_\_\_ than our plan
- sometimes His plan is \_\_\_\_\_ than our plan

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

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