

Scripture: Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

I. The Best Decision of My Life: Joseph's Story

A. **Different Time**

1. Marriage process
 - a) Betrothal/Engagement
 - (1) Arranged by parents
 - (2) Legal rights
 - (a) Legally binding contract
 - b) Marriage
 - (1) Public ceremony
 - (2) Wife would come to live with the husband
 - c) Consummation
 - (1) Sexual union between the husband and wife

B. **Decision Time**

1. Divorce
 - a) My legal rights
 - b) Protect myself
 - c) Private divorce would protect Mary
2. Divine Intervention
 - a) Comfort from above
 - b) Command from an angel
3. Decision
 - a) OBEY
 - (1) Setting aside my rights
 - (2) Public ridicule
 - (3) Foregoing sexual union until after birth

C. **Difficult Time**

1. Not a good time for a census
 - a) God's way of getting us to Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy
2. 90 miles on foot and donkey with a wife who was at full term

D. **Delivery Time**

1. No room at the inn
2. Savior in a stable
 - a) Deliverance of the God-man from the womb
 - b) Deliverance of man from the sin of the world

E. **Deliberation Time**

1. The path God has for us is difficult and it calls for personal sacrifice and surrender
2. When you decide to obey the call of the Lord despite the difficulties you will experience deliverance