

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: December 2, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Matthew 1:18-25
Topic: Grasping Our Lord's Desire... for The Incarnation and Prophecy	

God becoming man – what an unlikely thought! However such is the nature of love – going the distance. Matthew's aim is to show the outworking of God's purpose which was established and made known long ago. This is seen manifesting itself in this passage through:

- conception
- consolation
- clarification
- commitment

In verses 18-19, we see Divine Impregnation through the:

- ▲ engaged (18a)
- ▲ expectant (18b)
- ▲ empathetic (19)

This is a call to expect God's Extraordinary Works, which demands Openness to Miraculous Acts from God. Nothing is Impossible with God.

Divine Intervention is spoken of in verses 20-21, as seen in the:

- ▲ appearance of angelic one (20a)
- ▲ assurance of anxious one (20b)
- ▲ announcement of anointed one (21)

This is a call to expect God's Encouraging Word. Openness to Manifestations from God aimed at the Individual is what is being demanded because No one is Invisible with God.

In verses 22-23, Divine Interpretation is expressed through:

- ▲ prophecy fulfilled (22)
- ▲ presence felt (23)

This is a call to expect God's Enlightening of the Word. This demands Openness to Magnified Understanding of the Scriptures because the fact is New Insights come from God.

Verses 24-25 express thoughts of Divine Inspiration through Joseph's:

- ▲ Reliance on the Sovereign God (24a)
- ▲ Respect for the Situation (24b-25a)
- ▲ Regard for what was said to him (25b)

This is a call to expect godly Embracing of Revelation in our Walk. Openness to Modify Actions to Growth in Understanding are required. The fact is there are New Involvements with God.

God went the distance in becoming like us so as to make us like Him, according to His published and predetermined plan. Let us therefore move from fright to faith and from ignorance to understanding, in the light of the incarnation.