

Before children go downstairs-need one of them to choose a gift from the stage, give to me to reveal the topic for today's message. New Sermon series based on

Mt 1:20-21-angel revealed to Joseph about Jesus' supernatural birth.

- 4 gifts to mankind mentioned: (Forgiveness, Jesus, Revelation, Salvation)

- Before opening - James 1:17 – Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Heavenly lights who does not change like the shifting shadows.

- This week will be on the topic of revelation. Not the Book of Revelation, but rather how God has revealed and continues to reveal himself to humanity.

- God reveals Himself to you! How? Stay tuned... Mt 1:20-21...

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Gift 1 – Revelation – God revealed, reveals, will continue to reveal Himself.

- It's how God speaks to us. Does so in many ways.

- angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream... Joseph in a dream. Why? had in mind to divorce Mary quietly. God reveals intimately just for your attention.

- Dreams can be revelatory, don't discount - careful to remember (write down) also don't over-spiritualize. God is simple-pray about direct application to life.

- "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Joseph's understanding of Holy Spirit? Limited-he knew the angel was reading his mind.

- Revelation simultaneously intimate, (answered question) and dynamic (Joseph part of God's plan for Jesus). Bigger than Joseph capable of without God.

- Make sure to confirm with these 2 indicators as well as the Bible! God isn't going to tell you the exact date of Jesus' return. Don't bother trying. Be ready!

- Joseph had 2 other revelational dreams. Within 2 years after Jesus' birth angel told him to escape to Egypt from Herod. 3 years later angel appeared in a dream to go back to Israel. Be open to hearing from God/do what He says!

- The result of all 3 dreams and Joseph's obedience was prophecy fulfilled!

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- Another biblical Joseph was a dreamer. Intimate and dynamic. Dreams got him in trouble. Faithfulness to God through trouble grew and helped Joseph!

- Dream interpreter Daniel. Intimate and dynamic. Gave full credit to God for ability to interpret. Interpretations were simple and intimate to dreamer.

- Be careful with dream interpretation! No biblical evidence for specific things in a dream being specific indicators of anything! Like any vehicle represents your ministry or a red snake means that something will happen on a Tuesday. Or a bird means a death is coming in 3 days – hogwash!

- Revelation will be intimate, practical, require God's help, improve your walk. Snake dream example. Tempting fate.

- How can we get revelation? Look at Joseph's character. He was faithful to the law. (Joseph/Daniel too). Draw near, be faithful and obedient, surrender!

- What to do with revelation? Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him-went extra step of not consummating marriage until after!

- God reveals Himself in many ways, most consistent through Bible study and prayer. The closer you are to anyone or anything the more is revealed to you.