

April 2 – Found
[Matthew 1:18-25](#)



A pauper princess would have never imagined the way her life would have turned out. Mary, young yet noticed, is given the

news that she will have a child. Luke’s story tells us of an interaction with Gabriel. It seems comforting and divinely thought out. We modern hearers of the story take it in confidently, comfortably because the pageantry of the Christmas season lies in silent nights and manglers that are away. The world is soothed by the words of Luke and the traditions of the church. We grasp hands and sway back and forth with candles that break the backbone of darkness.

However.

When you see the “bump” for the first time, you are found. It’s one thing to gain weight, but another thing completely to take on a child. Sometimes you get found eating an extra slice of pie at Thanksgiving and someone catches you loosening the belt. Our text says that Mary was “found with a child from the Holy Spirit.” Found with a child.

Joseph found her. He had an idea how life was supposed to go. Now, he will not “put her to shame” no matter the depth of his humiliation or breadth of his disgrace. He and his betrothed have just a few hours left together. There will be no ceremony or celebration, only a shallow, hollow place on a date that should have been their wedding. All his preparations are for naught. All his hopes dashed.

Until...

Joseph gets found. The text says that he is a just man, unwilling and unable to be cruel to Mary. And then an angel of the Lord

appeared to him in a dream and gives him a mandate. “Joseph, son of David, do not fear...” In the regular course of interactions with angels, this phrase is quite commonplace. But then, “Do not fear to take Mary as your wife.”

It is a mandate. Don't be afraid of the thing which you cannot get around. God has planned this strange moment for you since Genesis. You will be her husband, so let that settle. You will be given the fortitude to do this because of the description of the child. He is from prophecy. His name is mandated “Jesus,” “He who saves.” When you look at him, you will only see fulfillment. He is the embodiment of everything that God has ever uttered. He is the revealing of the promises beyond all anyone has ever seen. If you have ever breathed in desperate hope, this child will be the answer.

All the scriptures find their fulfillment in him.

He is the mandate of the love of God.

And his love is mandated into a remade, millennia-old Passover meal which is renamed for him. Lord's Supper. The Lord is present in the meal just as he was present with Joseph's. Both

may be confusing, but both are received by faith. “Take, eat. Take, drink—this is the blood of the new covenant which is given for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

To Joseph—“You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” It is in that moment the quiet fulfillment of all that Jesus has come to do. The Son, promised of the Father, found in Mary, delivered for the salvation of all those who would ultimately be found in Jesus.

Imagine, as Joseph, looking squarely in the eyes of the angel of the Lord and hearing that you will hold salvation in your hands. Imagine thirty-three years later looking squarely in the eyes of

that very salvation and living it on a cold Thursday near Golgotha.
The mandate is given. All will be found.

His name is Jesus. He is salvation.

“Truly, this is the son of God.”

Truly.

Jesus, truly you came to be the incarnate son of God. Amen.