



BLESSING THE UNEXPECTED – PART 9 MESS OR MIRACLE THE FAITH OF A FATHER – MATTHEW 1

WHEN YOUR WORLD FALLS APART

MATTHEW 1:18

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: **His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.**

Our closest relationships can be a source of unexpected pain and loss.

OUR DECEITFUL DESIRES

EPHESIANS 4:17-24

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ **Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity,** and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;** ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

The unexpected will naturally give rise to a variety of feelings. Feelings are intended to be servants, not masters.

FAITHFUL TO THE LAW

MATTHEW 1:19

Because **Joseph her husband was faithful to the law,** and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

DEUTERONOMY 22:23-24

If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, **²⁴ you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death**

ISAIAH 42:2-3

He won't call attention to what he does with loud speeches or gaudy parades.

He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won't disregard the small and insignificant, but he'll steadily and firmly set things right.

Joseph is faithful like the coming Messiah: showing compassion and mercy to the vulnerable.

MATTHEW 1:20-25

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."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Joseph demonstrates the righteousness that led God to entrust to him His own Son.