

## I. The complicated death of a common man

**Matthew 26:1** And it came about that when Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples,  
<sup>2</sup> "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is *to be* delivered up for crucifixion."

<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas;

<sup>4</sup> and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth, and kill *Him*.

<sup>5</sup> But they were saying, "Not during the festival, lest a riot occur among the people."

## II. The aspirations of a common woman

**Luke 1:26** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord *is* with you."

<sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be.

<sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup> "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

<sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

<sup>37</sup> "For nothing will be impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup> Now at this time Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

<sup>40</sup> and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup> And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>42</sup> And she cried out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed among women *are* you, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!

<sup>43</sup> "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

<sup>44</sup> "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

<sup>45</sup> "And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

<sup>48</sup> "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

<sup>50</sup> "And His mercy is upon generation after generation Toward those who fear Him.

<sup>51</sup> "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

<sup>52</sup> "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

<sup>53</sup> "He has filled the hungry with good things; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

<sup>54</sup> "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

<sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his offspring forever."

<sup>56</sup> And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

### III. The afflictions of a common woman

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly.

<sup>20</sup> But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup> And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *her* as his wife,

<sup>25</sup> and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

**Luke 2:1** Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city.

<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

<sup>5</sup> in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

<sup>6</sup> And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

<sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> "And this *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

<sup>15</sup> And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

<sup>16</sup> And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

<sup>21</sup> And when eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every *first-born* male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"),

<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

<sup>28</sup> then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart In peace, according to Thy word;

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Thy salvation,

<sup>31</sup> Which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> A light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Thy people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed--

<sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage,

<sup>37</sup> and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

<sup>38</sup> And at that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Matthew 2:1** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."

<sup>3</sup> And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup> And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he *began* to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, ...

#### **IV. God as a common man**

##### **Matthew 26:1-5**