

Hello! This is Dorothy -

This is a wonderful time of year and the time of year we need to turn and read what the Scriptures have to say. I want us to turn, if you would, please, over to **Matthew**. I want to read — oh, after all those begettings! Have you ever read the **first chapter**? It is very important what we read as it talks about this one begat this one and this one begat that one. This is in **chapter 1 of Matthew**. Terribly important, and we will speak of that another time.

But I want us to get to **verse 16** which says: **And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.** That is, *Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ*. Then it goes on to say about the generations of the timing up to this and before this. I want us to really notice this little phrase about Mary, because it is terribly important as we speak about Mary that we understand who she is. There is a most beautiful, clear description of her in the Scriptures so that she would be recognized by every generation and every woman. We thank God for this young girl, who loved God and was pure and she was an obedient vessel unto Himself. *Mary, of whom was born Jesus . . .* Jesus was not begotten. All the

others were begotten; *that is, of natural generations*. But as we think of this dear Mary, we realize she was in a position that the Bible describes as being *espoused*. Now that is a different word for most of us in our language. You see, when Joseph and Mary were probably just about three or four years old, their families had decided they would be engaged. So you could run around at three and say, "I am engaged to Joseph!" Engagement was something that was arranged by families who felt they had the best answer of who people should marry. But the period usually of a year prior to the actual marriage, was called an *espousal*. This was a very serious time. This was a time when, of course, there was the very careful behavior between both parties, that there was no spoiling what the beauty of marriage is all about: when a woman comes pure to her husband and he comes pure to his wife. But in this period of espousal, the arrangement was that they could actually get a divorce from each other if necessary, if they did not want to go through with the marriage. So it was a very serious time.

We read in this **chapter 1 of Matthew** -

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, - *that meant before they came as man and wife* - she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. - *that is, to do it quietly, not to make a public scandal.* Also, what could have happened: she could have been stoned to death, being found pregnant outside of wedlock.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying, Joseph, thou son of David. fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife. . . *she was called a wife, although she was not a wife, because of this period of the espousal.* . . . for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. *Yeshua.* - *the Messiah.*

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin - *this is Mary we are speaking of* - shall be with child. and shall bring forth a son. and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

God with us — Jesus entering into flesh, perfect God, spotless, sinless, in this spotless, sinless, manner, which we will discuss further. And, thank God, He came that He might in His body become my Savior by going to the Cross one day to die for me.

Would you receive Him in your life right now, as you open your heart and thank Him for what He has done for you?

In Jesus' Name. Amen.