



## **Part 4**

**The Cost of the Most  
Expensive and the Most  
Valuable Gift Ever Given**

# **Matthew 1:18a**

**Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph.**

# **Matthew 1:18b**

**But before the marriage took place,  
while she was still a virgin,  
she became pregnant through  
the power of the Holy Spirit.**

# **Matthew 1:19**

**Joseph, to whom she was engaged,  
was a righteous man and did not  
want to disgrace her publicly,  
so he decided to break the  
engagement quietly.**

# **Matthew 1:20a**

**As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,**

# **Matthew 1:20b**

**“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

# **Matthew 1:21**

**And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”**



# **Matthew 1:22**

**All of this occurred to fulfill  
the Lord's message through  
his prophet saying:**

# Matthew 1:23

**“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”**

# **Matthew 1:24**

**When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.**

# **Matthew 1:25a**

**But he did not have sexual relations  
with her until her son was born.**

# **Luke 2:1**

**At that time the Roman emperor,  
Augustus, decreed that a census  
should be taken throughout the  
Roman Empire.**

# **Luke 2:2**

**(This was the first census taken  
when Quirinius was governor  
of Syria.)**

# Luke 2:3

All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.

# **Luke 2:4**

**And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.**



# **Luke 2:5**

**He took with him Mary, to whom  
he was engaged, who was now  
expecting a child.**

# **Luke 2:6**

**And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.**

## **Luke 2:7**

**She gave birth to her firstborn son.  
She wrapped him snugly in strips of  
cloth and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no lodging  
available for them.**



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# Principle #1

**God in the flesh chose to sacrifice His freedom, His rights, His position, and His life all for the sake of positioning Himself to continuously offer and give away the most expensive and the most valuable gift ever given.**

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# **The Sacrificial Life**

- **Mary's and Joseph's reputations are ruined in their own time (amongst those who do not believe in the miracle) because God blesses them with the privilege of being the parents of the Messiah.**

# **The Sacrificial Life**

- **Mary must live out the difficulties of being pregnant without the pleasure of getting pregnant.**
- **Joseph must live out the difficulties of being a husband and a father without the pleasure of either.**

# **The Sacrificial Life**

- **Joseph and pregnant Mary must travel 97.5 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem because of the greed of the Roman Emperor Augustus. (33 hours of walking on dirt roads)**

# **The Sacrificial Life**

- **Road Trip problems.**
- **Pregnant problems.**
- **Bandit problems.**
- **Weather problems.**
- **Money problems.**
- **Lodging problems.**
- **King of kings is born in a stable.**

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**What Has God Asked You  
to Sacrifice Recently in  
Order to Follow Christ?**

**What Have You  
Sacrificed Lately to  
Share the Gospel?**



# Principle #1

**God in the flesh chose to sacrifice His freedom, His rights, His position, and His life all for the sake of positioning Himself to continuously offer and give away the most expensive and the most valuable gift ever given.**

# Principle #2

**God chose the humblest birth for His entry into the world to reveal what He values as being essential for every human life, which is a life dedicated and committed to loving, obeying, and following the Master.**

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**At that time the Roman emperor,  
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# Principle #2

**God chose the humblest birth for His entry into the world to reveal what He values as being essential for every human life, which is a life dedicated and committed to loving, obeying, and following the Master.**

**How Are Your Values  
Currently Measuring Up  
with God's Values?**

# Principle #2

**God chose the humblest birth for His entry into the world to reveal what He values as being essential for every human life, which is a life dedicated and committed to loving, obeying, and following the Master.**

# Principle #3

**God in the flesh chose to enter into relationships with and to live among ungodly, unfair, unjust, and undesirable people in order to give away the most expensive gift and the most valuable gift ever given.**

**Are you willing to sacrifice  
your comfort, traditions,  
culture, and preferences in  
order to reach others who  
are completely different  
than you, with the Gospel?**

# Principle #3

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# Principle #4

**God in the flesh chose to suffer thru the reality of being despised, rejected, misjudged, oppressed, treated harshly, and forsaken all for the sake of giving away the most expensive gift and the most valuable gift ever given.**



**If you allow someone to repeatedly mistreat and abuse you without trying to repeatedly introduce them to Jesus Christ, then you have missed what the Good News is all about.**

# Principle #4

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# Principle #5

**God in the flesh chose to accept repeated failures and heartbreaking losses in the short term all for the sake of giving away the most expensive gift and the most valuable gift ever given.**

**When you successfully obey  
God's will, are you willing  
to accept the results, even if  
it results in repeated  
failures or heartbreaking  
losses?**

# Principle #5

**God in the flesh chose to accept repeated failures and heartbreaking losses in the short term all for the sake of giving away the most expensive gift and the most valuable gift ever given.**

# Principle #6

**God in the flesh chose to suffer like no one else ever has or ever will again, because that is the life the Father called Him to live, all for the sake of giving away the most expensive gift and the most valuable gift ever given.**

**How are you partnering  
with God in His Mission  
to save the people of this  
world?**

**Who has come into a  
saving relationship with  
Christ as a result of your  
relationship with them?**



# Principle #6

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