Champions/Women of DestinyLESSON 2





Jesus in Human Flesh

Passages to Read: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-28; John 1:14; Romans 8:3



Have you ever done what's right, knowing that it would look wrong to

others? If so, then you might have a better understanding of how Mary, the mother of Jesus, felt when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her in the town of Nazareth. The angel told her she was going to bear the Son of God, and His name was going to be Jesus. The angel did not ask Mary what she was going to call her son – He told her what the name of her son was to be. How do you feel about that?

The Bible doesn't tell us Mary was upset by the news, but put yourself in her shoes. First of all,

she was a virgin and morally pure in every respect (I hope some of you can identify with this) and scholars believe she may have been only 13-16 years old at the time. Conception without a human father is medically impossible. (A baby had to have a daddy to be conceived even if he is not taking care of them). Mary asked the angel, "How shall this be since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34) Then the angel explained that the Holy Spirit would cause the pregnancy to happen. [Don't get



sidetracked here with disbelief]. Mary's problem with this news was that she was engaged to be married to a young carpenter named Joseph. No doubt people would think the baby was Joseph's (you know how folk talk). And what would Joseph think?

In spite of her dilemma, Mary submissively replied to Gabriel the angel: "I am the Lord's

What about You? Do you respond to God the way Mary has? Can you trust Him enough to obey Him?

servant. May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). The Bible doesn't paint the picture of an unwilling Mary. She trusted God without question – no matter what others would think or how crazy the message may have seemed.

Talk to us Joseph

Joseph has a problem too. Because he and Mary had been careful to maintain their purity (he did not put it all on Mary to remain pure, he took responsibility for their relationship too brothers) during their engagement, he knew the baby wasn't his. So whose baby was it? The logical

conclusion was that Mary was guilty of an immoral act. According to the law, Joseph could have had Mary stoned to death.

Instead, Joseph was not willing to front Mary like that: "Because Joseph her husband was a

righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly." (Matt. 1:19)

While Joseph was confused over what to do, "an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matt.1:20) Joseph obeyed the Lord and married Mary. But he kept her a virgin until after Jesus was born (vs. 25).

What Happened Next

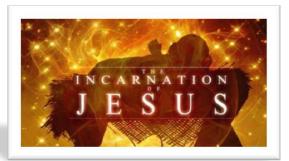
Almost nine months later, Mary and Joseph, now a married couple, took a trip to Bethlehem. The Roman Emperor named Caesar Augustus had called for a census, and that meant everyone had to return to his or her ancestral home. Because Joseph was of the house of David, and therefore of royal lineage, he had to go to Bethlehem. Due to the census, the city was so crowded that all the guest guarters were occupied and Joseph and Mary had to spend the night in a stable. At that time, Luke 2:5 said Mary was close to delivery of the baby Jesus.

The Miraculous Birth

During her stay in Bethlehem. Mary brought Jesus Christ into the world - fulfilling what the Prophet Micah said 700 years earlier (Micah 5:2) that the Messiah would be born to a virgin in Bethlehem. Another Old Testament prophecy brought a shadow on the birth of Jesus. Genesis 3:15 (go ahead, turn to it) God said to Satan: "I will put enmity (hostility) between you and the woman, and

between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." Here, the woman's offspring refers to Jesus. In other words, Satan would harm Jesus temporarily (bruise his heel), while Jesus would cause eternal destruction to Satan and his works of darkness.

The Importance of Jesus in Human Flesh



By coming to the world in human flesh, God provided a way for us to be saved from sin (2 Cor. 5:21). He sent His only Son to die in our place. If Jesus had not come, we would not have the hope of salvation. That's why the incarnation (Jesus in human flesh) is so important to what we believe.

Special Guests

In the fields, shepherds watching their sheep were terrified when they saw an angel and the "glory of the Lord shining around them" (Luke 2:9). The angel told them that Jesus the Savior was born and that they would find Him "wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Jesus as the angel had said.



The God Man

Imagine how Mary and Joseph must have felt to realize that their child was the Son of God. A lot of feelings they must have experienced – concern, anxiety, unworthiness, and maybe scared. After all, He wasn't just a man; He was God.

The angel said His name would be Jesus (Matt. 1:21), the Greek form of *Jeshua* (Jesh-oo-uh) which means: "Jehovah Savior" or "the Lord saves." Christ, in the Greek form of the Hebrew word Mashiach (Mush-eye-uck), means "anointed one" or "Messiah." The name Jesus Christ signifies the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise of a Savior.

Tell Me More About Jesus, The Man

Remember, the incarnation (coming in the flesh) of Jesus is a mystery. How could Jesus be both God and man at the same time? This union of God and man in theology is called the hypostatic union. While on earth, Jesus showed His humanity in several key ways. The Bible tells us that Jesus...

- Grew in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52)
- Was tempted (Luke 4:1-13; Heb. 4:15)
- Was hungry (Matt. 4:2; Luke 4:2)
- Was thirsty (Matt. 27:48; John 19:28)
- Was angry (John 2:15)
- Ate and drank (Luke 7:34; 24:42-43)
- Cried (Luke 19:41: John 11:35)
- Got tired (John 4:6)
- Slept (Matt 8:24)
- Prayed (Luke 5:16; 6:12)
- Had family and friends (John 11:3; Luke 2:43-44)
- Felt sorrow and anxiety (Mark 14:33-35; Luke 22:44)
- Died (Matt. 27:50: 2 Cor. 5:15)

Another important fact of Jesus' humanity is His lineage (past family line) to the throne of David. While Matthew traces this lineage through Joseph, Jesus' stepfather, Luke traces his lineage through Mary, his mom. Luke's genealogy especially highlights Jesus' right to the throne of David – a necessary detail for Jesus to be the Messiah. Jesus had every right to be the "King



of the Jews." Unfortunately, the Jews were disappointed because they expected Him to be a political King, fashioned after one of His famed ancestors (guess who?).

Side Note

Have you been disappointed by Jesus because you thought He should have responded to you differently than He did?

Then what makes Jesus, God?

Jesus not only showed his humanity, he also showed His deity (Jesus being God) in many ways:

- Was born of a virgin
- Never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 John 2:1; 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22)
- He rose from the dead (John 20:24-28)
- Ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:9-11)
- He performed many miracles (Matt. 7:22; Mark 6:2)
- He forgave sin (John 8:10-11; Mark 2:5)
- God the Father verified who Jesus was (John 1:29-34; Matt. 3:16-17)

The deity of Jesus Christ is a truth most of us accept without question. But if someone were to ask you how you know Jesus is God, what would you say? <u>Look up the verses below and</u> match them with the seven witnesses of Christ's deity.

1. God's Word	A. John 8:14

2. Believers B. John 5:39

3. Jesus Himself C. John 5:37

4. The Holy Spirit D. John 15:27

5. God the Father E. John 5:36

6. John the Baptist F. John 15:26

7. Jesus' works G. John 1:15



Memory verse

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." Phil. 2:5-7

Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ2ZEQJjMKI

Champions and Women of *Destiny* **LESSON 2 Review Quiz**

Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: https://forms.gle/SoAgKxD8RxG46LFX6

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	nt name
Note: Answer questions in complete sentences and careful thought. This determines how well you understand what you read.	
1.	According to scholars, how old was Mary when the angel Gabriel appeared to her?
2.	True/False. Joseph could have had Mary stoned.
3.	Why did Mary and Joseph make a trip to Bethlehem?
4.	According to the lesson, what prophecy did the Old Testament book of Micah foretell concerning the birth of Jesus?
5.	In Genesis 3:15, what does the woman's "seed" represent?
6.	What does the name Jesus mean? What does the name Christ mean?
7.	What is the technical term for the union of God and man?
8.	True/False. Jesus never sinned. (Are you sure?)
9.	Who wrote that Jesus did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth?
10.	Why do you think God the Father planned for His Son to be born in a manger?