

When you Discover the Cost of Christmas

Matthew 1:18-25

How much are you willing to spend on Christmas? What if the cost involved the tarnishing of your reputation, the lessening of your career prospects, and the diminishing of your standing in the community? That is the price Joseph paid to celebrate Christmas.

Joseph was caught between disappointment and dilemma (18-19)

As a businessman aspires to be a CEO, as an athlete longs to be an all-star, so a Jewish boy aspired to be a righteous man.

To maintain his reputation, Joseph had no choice but to divorce Mary, who was now 3-4 months pregnant. The only question was how—publicly or privately.

Joseph was reassured by God’s messenger (20-23)

Joseph was probably afraid of social stigma, loss of reputation, and his standing in the community. The angel calmed all of his fears.

The virgin birth points to Jesus’ divine nature. It is also a fulfillment of prophecy.

The two names reveal Jesus’ identity and purpose.

Immanuel	Jesus
Nature	Office
Fully God	Fully Man
Who he is	What he does
Incarnation	Purpose
God with us	Savior

Joseph obeyed God’s instructions (24-25)

In keeping with his “righteous” character, Joseph immediately obeys the angels’ instructions.

Joseph values commitment to God above his own honor.

Like Joseph, we should be willing to sacrifice our status, careers, possessions, convenience, reputation, and freedoms for Jesus.