

Homework Leading Into This Week: Matthew 1:18-24
Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

Christmas ER

Week #4: The Delivery Room

Worth The Wait!

1. What we are willing to wait for reveals the **value** we place on it.
 - ❖ Psalm 130:5-8 - I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

 - ❖ Matthew 1:18-19 - This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

2. While you are waiting, you can expect both the **unexpected** and **madness**.
 - ❖ Luke 2:1-7 - In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. 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 lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

3. The Christmas E.R. leaves a lasting legacy that is definitely worth **waiting** for!
 - ❖ Matthew 1:20-23 - "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 2:9 - However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him.

Points to Ponder

1. You can't know what to expect when you are expecting, even though the book says otherwise. Mary and Joseph could not have anticipated or expected all that lead up to the birth of Jesus. There was one thing they could expect - God's faithfulness. Re-read Luke 2:1-7, and consider how in the middle of all of it God was faithful.
2. As you prepare for Christmas and your celebrations, do you have expectations...of the gifts you might receive or the way in which the family get-together will go? If so, what are they? Do you think the reality will meet your expectations or go beyond them? Before your celebrations this year, take some time to revisit the delivery room of the stable in Bethlehem. Consider not only the madness, but how it lead to something beautiful that you are waiting for.

*"Rejoice, that the immortal God is born,
so that mortal man may live in eternity."
~ John Huss*

Homework For Christmas Eve: Luke 2:1-20