

“His Name Shall Be Called Jesus”

Matthew 1:18-25

December 8, 2019

“When Michelangelo was laboring day after day painting the ceiling of the Sistine chapel, he grew so discouraged that he resolved to quit.

As the dusk darkened the always-shadowed Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo, weary, sore, and doubtful, climbed down the ladder from his scaffolding where he’d been lying on his back since dawn, painting the chapel ceiling. After eating a lonely dinner, he wrote a sonnet to his aching body. The last line [was]... “I’m no painter.”

But when the sun shone again, Michelangelo got up from his bed, climbed up his scaffold, and labored another day on his magnificent vision of the Creator.

What pushed him up the ladder? Hope.” *Lewis Smedes*

I. The Unexplainable Activity of God’s Work:

Matthew 1:18,19,22

- A. Joseph made a commitment to get married only to find out his soon to be wife was with child.
- B. The thing that stopped Joseph from breaking his commitment to get married was a God-thing.
- C. The thing that enabled Joseph to live out his commitment for his entire life was unexplainable without supernatural intervention.

II. The Incomparable Announcement of God’s Word:

Matthew 1:21

- A. The name Jesus comes from the name Joshua in the Old Testament which means Savior.
- B. “Whatever happened to sin?”
Karl Menninger
- C. “Some employees call it fringe benefits,” said the *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 19, 1970, “but most employers call it thievery... Lie detector samplings... showed 72 percent of the tested department store employees [were involved] ... 86 percent of the sampled truck drivers and 82 percent of the bank employees!”

III. The Unexpected Acceptance of God’s Will:

Matthew 1:22-25

- A. Joseph did as the angel commanded.
- B. Joseph and Mary were married and had a son. They call His name Jesus!