



Daily Reflections

September 8, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 1: 18-23

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."

Our Scripture Reflection

Think about it: Joseph's Life was completely ordered it seemed. He was to marry Mary, they would enjoy the security of the carpenter's profession and their first born son would be named Jesus after his father. Yes, things were all set, that is, until the Angel spoke the will of God to him. Joseph's Life was flipped upside down in an instant. His response? Obedience. He surrendered his life to God, completely.

Food for your Journey

What did Christmas cost Mary? It nearly cost her marriage to Joseph. Only the timely intervention of an angel convinced her betrothed not to do "the right thing" and send her away, but the loving thing and expose himself to ridicule.

What did Christmas cost Mary and Joseph together? It cost them their home. When they learned that Herod's soldiers would soon arrive, with infanticide on their minds, their brief sojourn to Bethlehem stretched into years of exile in Egypt.

What did Christmas cost the magi? Many months, perhaps even years, of arduous travel. And the shepherds? They had to risk descending from the high meadows into the town below, where they would be subject to abuse and ridicule from the more settled populace.

What's Christmas likely to cost us? A whopping big bill on our January credit-card statement?

Really? Is the cost of our Christmas even in the same league as these others?

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Help me to have the same strong faith that Joseph had. May I trust You in all things and do what You desire for me to do. Amen.