

# *Daily Reflections*

# ADVENT

The Divine Intervention

**December 18, 2015**

## *Scripture*

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

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."

When Joseph awoke,  
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took his wife into his home.

He had no relations with her until she bore a son,  
and he named him Jesus.

## *Our Scripture Reflection*

We are now one week away from the celebration of our Savior's birth. Today's text, found only in Matthew, describes the "annunciation to Joseph." Interesting, there are three times that God speaks to Joseph through an Angel and each time it happens Joseph is asleep! What God asks of Joseph would have seemed impossible to anyone in his day. However, Joseph, that holy, humble and faith-filled man, is immediately obedient to what God asks of him. Joseph teaches us that the proper stance of the true disciple is to surrender one's life completely to God's plan, something difficult but not impossible.

## *Food for your Journey*

To paraphrase and update Billy Sunday a bit: "If you had to get into heaven on the testimony of your [Metro-maid], could you make it? If your getting into heaven depended on what your [favorite waitress] knows about your religion, would you land? If your husband had to gain admittance to heaven on the testimony of his [administrative assistant], could he do it? If [the boss'] salvation depended on what [her employees] tell about her, would [she] get there?"

-As quoted in William T. Ellis, *Billy Sunday: The Man and His Message*.

## *Prayer from the Heart*

Precious Lord, please give me the same Grace You gave to Joseph so that I may humbly and courageously surrender my entire life to You. Amen.