

# Christmas According to Matthew

## The Decision Of A Lifetime

### Matthew 2:1-2; Philippians 2:3-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Dec. 19, 2021

**Matthew 1:18-2:2** “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.’”

#### I. Jesus decided to prioritize sinners like you & me over Himself!

**Philippians 2:3-4** “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, **but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

#### II. Jesus decided to become the Godman by taking on flesh!

**Philippians 2:5-7** “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though He was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,** <sup>7</sup> but **emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**”

#### III. Jesus decided to obey His Father in paying for sinners just like you & me!

**Philippians 2:8** “And being found in human form, **He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,** even death on a cross.”

#### IV. You will decide whether or not you will worship Jesus!

**Matthew 2:1-2** “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose **and have come to worship Him.**”

**Philippians 2:9-11** “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** <sup>11</sup>**and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. What's the funniest experience you've ever had with a salesperson?
2. What difficult decisions did you have to make in 2021?
3. Pastor Peter listed three decisions Jesus made that we greatly benefited from as believers. Which one stands out the most to you? What else has Jesus done for people like you?
4. Pastor Peter said “Obedience is always a choice. The fact that Jesus was ‘obedient to the point of death’ indicates this was something He chose to do for His heavenly Father and for people like you & me.” How does that make you feel?
5. Pastor Peter said “You will decide whether or not you will worship Jesus.” What have you decided about Jesus? Will you worship Him? Why or why not?