

CHRISTMAS – Part I
“When Things Don’t Go as Planned”
Reference: **Matthew 1:18-25**
Pastor Larry Webb

No other fact in the Christmas story is more important than the virgin birth. The virgin birth must have been exactly as Scripture says it was, or Christmas has no point at all.

Joseph and Mary were betrothed. Betrothal was a legal _____
_____. The betrothal period was the actual time period that
this marriage contract was in effect; which would have been 10 to 12
months. After the betrothal period, there would be a wedding
_____ ; and then, after the ceremony, the marriage would be
consummated in the _____ union.

Jesus is God incarnate. This term “incarnation” comes from the Latin
word that means “enfleshment”, or “to be made _____.”

There are four ways someone can get a human body:

- 1) without a man or woman, as _____ was
- 2) with a man, but without a woman, as _____ was
- 3) with a man and a woman, as _____ are
- 4) with a woman, but without a man, as _____ was

Once Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he had two legal options
available to him:

- he could have made Mary a _____.

- he could put her away _____.
This phrase “to put her away” in the Greek language meant
_____.

Joseph and Mary’s original plans were changed. There are three things
to remember if our plans don’t go as planned:

ONE is God might be using this change of plans to get _____
_____.

verse twenty, “...*behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him
in a dream...*”

Reference: **Psalms 81:13**, “*Oh, that My people would listen to
Me...*”

Reference: **Psalms 46:10**, “*Be still and know that I am God.*”

TWO is God is demonstrating that He has a _____ and
_____ plan.

Reference: **Jeremiah 29:11**, “*For I know the thoughts that I think
toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to
give you a future and a hope.*”

Reference: **I Corinthians 2:9** “*But as it is written: ‘Eye has not
seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the
things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’*”

Notice two things about this better plan:

- His plan is sometimes _____ than our plan

- His plan is sometimes _____ than our plan

THREE is God wants us to _____ Him and His better plan.

Reference: **Proverbs 3:5**, “*Trust in the LORD with all your
heart...*”