**“God Coming to the Hurt”**

Going deeper in Matthew 1:18-25

**INTRODUCTION** – Prior to this passage a genealogy of Jesus has been lined out. Among other things, it demonstrated the faithfulness of God throughout time and generations.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 18 The birth of Jesus Christ took place like this. His mother Mary was engaged (betrothed) to be married to Joseph, but before they enjoyed their wedding night Joseph discovered that she was pregnant. It was by the Holy Spirit (But Joseph didn’t know that.). 19 Joseph, her husband, decided that the right thing would be to divorce her quietly and not to publicly disgrace her. 20 But while he was trying to figure this whole thing out, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife because Mary’s pregnancy is conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son and you, Joseph, will name him Jesus (God saves) because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All of this took place in order that the prophet’s embryonic revelation might come to full term: 23 “Look at this – a virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son; They will call him Immanuel (Hebrew for “God is with us”).” 24 Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what the angel commanded him in the dream. He married Mary. 25 But he did not consummate the marriage with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named the baby Jesus.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think Joseph is feeling in this? How would you feel if you were Joseph?

2. Why does the angel include “son of David” in addressing Joseph?

3. What would Joseph have been “afraid of” in verse 20?

4. What do you think Joseph thought of the names the angel gave for his son – “Jesus (God saves)” and “Immanuel”?

5. What do you think it was like for Joseph to do exactly as the angel commanded him? What would it be like for you?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Take some time in silence and then ask the Spirit of God to fill you and then guide you in this time of prayer.

\*Go through your day and all the activities and appointments with the Lord. Give him each thing and ask him to guide you and make you aware of his leading throughout your day.

\*Ask the Lord to give you the power today to do what he commands.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Joseph is in a very hard position. He chooses to trust God and does what the Lord commands him to do. What is the Lord commanding you to do? Will you follow through?