

*We're not that far from the first Christmas*

(Matthew 1:18-2:3)

1. Relationship Status: *It's complicated*

When we rewind the story from the manger to the announcement we see that Mary and Joseph had a very complicated relationship:

- Mary is engaged to Joseph [Matthew 1:18]
- Before their wedding Mary becomes pregnant [Matthew 1:18]
- Joseph is described as a *Just* man. He didn't want to put her to shame. He decides to divorce her quietly. (1:19)
- Joseph takes time to consider his possible actions (1:20) (*Think before you act out of emotion*)

*Application Point: A complicated family situation does not disqualify God from working in your life.*

At the first Christmas we don't see candy canes or wreaths or children with wish lists. We see real people, with real problems, in real situations with real needs. We see how in the midst of darkness, confusion, and loneliness - God breaks through.

2. Unexpected Visitors and Gifts

*The Gifts*

The Gold: Represented His Kingship

The Frankincense: His Deity

The Myrrh: His Sacrificial Death and Burial

This story shows us 3 things about Jesus:

1. He will be worshiped by people other than the Jews - *Wise men were from the East* (2:1)
2. He is King (2:1)
3. He alone is to be worshiped (2:2)

*Application Point: This Christmas, will the people in your life see past the beautiful décor and the wonderful lights and notice:*

- *You submitting to Jesus as your King and Lord*
- *You worshiping Jesus*
- *You inviting others to Jesus*