



UNEXPECTED

What to do when
your whole world
changes.



Series Outline

- An Unexpected Reversal.
- **An Unexpected Betrayal.**
- An Unexpected Invitation.
- An Unexpected Reception.



Joseph: *An Unexpected Betrayal*

Matthew 1:18-25



Martin Luther

*“Each betrayal
begins with trust.”*



First Point

**Limited
Options**

Matthew 1:18-19



18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way...

This may be one of the most pro-life verses in the entire Bible!



Joseph's Options were Limited

- No second chance option.
- No way to keep Mary and avoid shame.
- Only one way to regain both reputation and resources.



B.B. Barton

God often shows us that we have more options than we think. Although Joseph seemed to be doing the right thing by breaking the engagement, God helped him make the best decision. We should always seek God's wisdom, especially when our decisions affect others.



Second Point

**Clear
Instructions**

Matthew 1:20-23



Clear Instructions

1. Do not “shrink back” from taking Mary as your wife!



Hebrews 10:39

But we are not of those **who shrink back** and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.



Clear Instructions

- 1. Do not “shrink back” from taking Mary as your wife!**
- 2. You shall call His name Jesus!**



An Unclear but Crucial Comment

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, **the virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, **and they shall call his name Immanuel**” (which means, God with us). - Matthew 1:22-23



Third Point

**Thorough
Obedience**

Matthew 1:24-25



Some important tenses for some important theology!

25 but **knew** her not...



Imperfect Tense suggests an ongoing action

...**until** she had given birth to a son.



Suggests that a normal sexual relationship ensued after this.



Some Key Lessons from Joseph

1. Limited options tempt us to choose the lesser of evils. Seek better options by praying to the Limitless God!



Some Key Lessons from Joseph

2. Fear tempts us to shrink back from hard decisions. Faith calls us to step forward!



Some Key Lessons from Joseph

3. Delayed obedience is disobedience. Partial obedience is disobedience. Thorough obedience delight's God's heart!



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