

Week 50  
346/19

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... before they came together ...”**  
*Matthew 1:18*

The virginity of Mary was and is a big issue regarding the birth of Christ. Through the years it has been played down, and in some cases explained away. To say the least it was a situation of masterful timing to accommodate Jesus Christ's "God/maness." Mary had to be married, but the marriage not yet consummated. The Jewish tradition of marriage made this possible. Betrothed (not the same as being engaged), Mary was legally married, yet she and Joseph had not experienced physical intimacy. In this state, she was spoken for, and considered to be a person of integrity and high moral character as was Joseph, "a just man." So that took care of the man part of Jesus.

The God part was taken care of by the Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary and divinely intervening on the behalf of Christ. Therefore, she was with child of the Holy Spirit. By connecting the timeline dots, it seems that Mary conceived and immediately went to see her cousin Elizabeth for three months. By that time she would certainly have been showing when she returned home. Joseph would have been very upset, and he was, based on the visible evidence (how else would he have known that she was pregnant). God took care of that as well by telling Joseph all that had and would transpire. Therefore, Mary brought forth God's Son and Joseph reared Him as his own.

Based on the intricate details and the impeccable timing, there is nothing like this story anywhere. There is no family experience like this story anywhere either. Something goes drastically lacking when someone tries to explain it either more fully or altogether away. Suffice it to say that it is what, it is, – a miracle.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man? Do you believe that Christ is Emmanuel – God with us? Do you believe in the immaculate inception or conception? Christmas rests on the condition that we believe that Mary was with child of the Holy Spirit before intimately knowing Joseph, before they came together.