

# Taking the Leap

Rachael Martin 1,9,2017

**Matthew 1:18-25 - The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly. <sup>20</sup> Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, “Joseph, descendant of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him to do. He took Mary to be his wife. <sup>25</sup> He did not have marital relations with her before she gave birth to a son. Joseph named the child Jesus.**

I hear the Lord saying that this year will be a leap year for some of you. Those of you who have been struggling to get to the next place with the Lord, are going to get there because of your faith – your leap of faith. You may not think you have it – and all of a sudden, because of your obedience, your faith will ignite and be acted upon and the struggle that had you will no longer have power.

The scripture above gives us an example of a very hard decision between two people. For Mary to have a baby out of wedlock was unheard of and punishable and Mary was all of a sudden pregnant and knew she would look all kinds of crazy if she told people it was by Holy Spirit – a spiritual conception. What? These days we would call that alien abduction or psychotic!

Then you have Joseph who was like what? Not me, I’m getting rid of this woman! Although he had integrity enough to do it quietly for both of their sakes, he was plotting his next move when the angel of the Lord came to him. Even then – how hard would that be to TRUST that this baby was spiritually conceived AND the Savior of the world! This leap of faith put prophecy into movement and is the reason we can have a relationship with Jesus and the God of the universe!

I feel like the Lord wanted to inspire us today. If you think He can’t use little ole’ you – Yes, He can! Father, I ask that those reading this today will have hope ignited in them today to take a leap of faith, whether at work, in their marriage, in their gift, in their school, in the place where You have shown them. Father thank You for loving us and moving us by Your strong and loving hand to strategic places. We give You the glory. In Jesus name, Amen!