

LESSON 20: ...CONCEIVED AND BORN...

Memory work

You may also memorize stanzas 3&4 of the song on the other side of this sheet.

35. Q. What do you confess when you say: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?

A. *The eternal Son of God,
who is and remains true and eternal God,
took upon Himself true human nature
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
through the working of the Holy Spirit.*

36. Q. What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

A. *He is our Mediator,
and with His innocence and perfect holiness
covers, in the sight of God,
my sin, in which I was conceived and born.*

Homework

It is commonly thought that initially Joseph thought Mary had slept with another man. But is this so? Turn in a Bible to Matthew 1.

1.(2) What was found out about Mary (verse 18). _____

(Hint: did you write out *everything* that was found out about her?)

2.(1) What sort of a man was Joseph? _____

3.(1) Do you think he would have disobeyed the Jewish laws if this was how he was? _____

(If Joseph suspected Mary of having committed adultery, Jewish law required him to divorce her publicly.)

4.(1) Why did Joseph not want to divorce Mary publicly? _____

5.(2) If Joseph did not suspect Mary of adultery, why might Joseph have wanted to divorce Mary? (Hint: during class you heard Michael Card's song: The song of Joseph. It's on YouTube.)

6.(2) The angel says (verse 20): "Because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." There are two ways to translate this. The ESV way. And this way: "Joseph... don't be afraid to marry Mary because her child is from the Holy Spirit." (Note: Greek doesn't have punctuation.) If done the latter way, what reason did the angel name for Joseph not marrying Mary?

7.(1) Would it make sense to hold that Joseph did not suspect Mary of adultery but understood she was about to give birth to the Messiah and Joseph considered it wrong that people would think he was the father of Jesus? _____

Alternative Memory work

The following stanzas are rhymed versions of q&a 35 & 36:

3. By the Holy Spirit Jesus was conceived,
 Born of the Virgin Mary. This we believe.
 Christ is both true God and man, thus fore'er he'll be
 Both in true perfection through all eternity
 True God, true man.

4. Christ, our mediator, with his innocence
 From God hides my corruption and all my sins.
 I'm conceived and born in sin and endless misery.
 But my Saviour Jesus in love delivered me.
 He set me free.

Based on this melody (a Dutch Christmas hymn) – same as last week:

Nu zijt wel - le - ko - me Je - su, lie - ve Heer,
 Gij komt van al - zo ho - ge, van al - zo veer.
 9 Nu zijt wel - le - ko - me van de ho - ge he - mel neer.
 13 Hier al in dit aard - rijk zijt Gij ge - zien nooit meer. Ky - ri - e - leis.