

**Christmas and the Cross Series:
The Shadow of the Cross over Christmas**

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Context - After his genealogy that bridges Abraham to Jesus at the beginning of his book, Matthew presents the birth of Christ through the lens of Joseph's eyes.

To see the shadow of the cross in Christmas....

1. _____ **yourself on the virgin birth (vs. 18-20)**
 - A. The Virgin Birth emphasizes three truths about Jesus:
 1. That Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent man.
 2. That Jesus was born without sin.
 3. That Jesus came to fulfill the Father's plan.
 - B. The church father Irenaeus captured it memorably, "if one does not accept [the Son of God's] birth from a Virgin, how can he accept His resurrection from the dead?"

2. _____ **the meaning of the name "Jesus" (vs. 21)**
 - A. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua which means "God is salvation" or "Yahweh saves," and it reveals His mission (to save and deliver) and His identity as Savior of the world.
 - B. "He was, from one angle, 'just another Joshua,' and yet, in another sense, he was the true Joshua—the one who would live up to the meaning of this name in ways that no others could." The Lexham Survey of Theology

3. _____ **how he will save us from our sins (vs. 21b)**
 - A. Jesus came with a mission - to seek and to save that which was lost. Right from his birth, his purpose was known and announced. This baby would do something incredible to save sinners.
 - B. Right at the birth story, the cross casts a shadow over Jesus. God's eternal plan to redeem fallen humanity was finally coming into view.