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**A Core Commitment:**

*Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

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*The Tradition of Hope & Surprise*

Christmas Traditions—part 5

December 26, 2010

How do you handle tough situations?

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MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- Memorize Matthew 7:13-14
- Make a decision that is right and compassionate, empowered by God.
- Pledge to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ before December 31 to Love My Church

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*Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.*

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*Matthew 1:19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

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You can listen to PCI messages at [www.pacificchurch.com](http://www.pacificchurch.com), or you can listen to past messages at [reachteachlove.com](http://reachteachlove.com)

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*Matthew 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."*

*Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her<sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,<sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

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### 3 Lessons from Joseph

*Matt. 1:24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.<sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

**Obedience –What is the \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do?**

**Heart: “What is the \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do?”**

**Will: “How do I find the \_\_\_\_\_ to do the right and compassionate thing?”**

*Matthew 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."*

*Luke 1:30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God."*

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