

**December 04, 2022. Welcome to Atlee Church Online. We are so glad you joined us today!**

### **Christmas at the Movies - The Grinch**

Matthew 1:18 -25 NIV, John 16:33 NIV, Matthew 1:20-23 NIV, Hebrews 13:15 NIV

**We are reminded that we all have Grinches that try to steal our Christmas.**

We imagine this first couple, everything being perfect, because we get the whole story. They get the high honor and privilege of bringing the savior into the world. We think of it being a Whoville like experience, but it would have been anything but that in their ancient culture.

According to Hebrew marriage customs marriages were usually arranged and contracts/conditions were made. After this they were considered married but they would remain in their original households for another year 3 of a waiting period that would demonstrate their pledge to purity. If the bride were to violate those purity terms, the marriage could be annulled, because it signified that the wife was not faithful to the pledge of purity.

So this wasn't a whoville type of situation for this young couple bringing this baby into the world...

#### **JOSEPH:**

**BETRAYAL-** He & Mary's marriage got off to a bad start -- Mary turned up pregnant during the engagement and Joseph knew that the child was not his.

**ANGER-** Yes. Anger at her unfaithfulness.

**EMBARRASSMENT** Yes. Half of his friends thought him a fool for picking her and letting her get away with it. The other half thought that he was the guilty party. So Joseph's reputation took a hit.

**SORROW-** No doubt. His life had been planned around her and he was sorry for her too; she had ruined her life. He had started to plan to divorce her quietly.

**MARY'S REPUTATION RUINED** – Mary was one of the most righteous women of all time. And yet she became ostracized and stigmatized for a pregnancy that was not caused by sin.

## **Top 7 Christmas Grinches we face that try to steal our Christmas experience.**

**Finances.** Not enough money.

**Stress.** Shopping, planning, dinners, decorations, etc.

**Loneliness.** A whopping 43 percent of Americans are single, and 27 percent live alone. Tough.

**Grief.** Missing a deceased loved one.

**Conflict** When you're not speaking to a relative, family get-togethers can usher in feelings of sadness, guilt, resentment, or inner conflict about whether to communicate.

**Family struggles.** The holidays may remind you of happier times.

**Pleasing others.** We try to meet everyone's expectations & prob. fail.

### **Today's Music**

Jingle Bells – Brian Setzer

Angels We Have Heard on High – For King & Country

He Shall Reign Forevermore – Chris Tomlin