

**Message Outline**  
*Teaching Tradition:*  
*Candy Canes*  
**Matthew 1:18-25**



**Intro:** Exploring traditions of Christmas and what they teach about Christ...

- Christmas Cards, Colors, and Carols...

**History of the Candy Cane**

- For much of history, candy is rare delicacy.
- Choirmaster in Cologne, Germany 1670s...
  - A treat to teach and keep kids quiet during long church services ☺
  - Sweet Truths to Sweet Treats:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

**Read:** Matthew 1:18-25

**v.18a**—Meaning of “Messiah”...

- OT awaiting the Chosen One...

**v.18-19**—Marriage in Joseph/Mary’s day...

- Lengthy betrothal that’s legal but not sexual...
- Joseph sees the baby bump knowing he’s played no part in this transpiring!!!

**v.20**—God offers clarity to the confusion...

- Joseph probably didn’t fully understand it but was obedient to it...

**v.21**—Joseph gets baby gender, name, and occupation all up front...

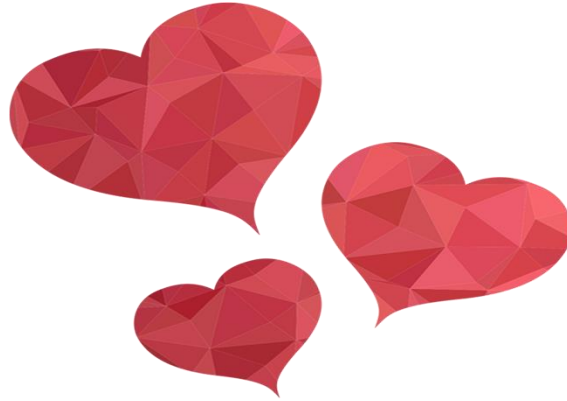
- “saving” comes at great personal cost...

**v.22-23**—Uncharted territory, not unforeseen territory...prophetic revelation.

**v.24-25**—No words by Joseph...just silently but obediently playing his role!

- A picture of the “sweet” life...obedience and faithfulness that moves God’s plans forward!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Love



<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ!  
Amen.

-Romans 16:25-27 NIV