

## October 1 Answers

- 1) Mary stayed with Elizabeth for **three** months after Gabriel announced the conception of Jesus, and when she returned home, it wasn't long before her family and friends realized she was pregnant. Joseph also learned of her pregnancy, and he was very upset. He and Mary were  **betrothed** , a legal pledge to marry that only a divorce writ could break, and infidelity at that stage was considered **adultery** (cf. Deut 22:23–24). He finally decided to divorce her privately, and as he was thinking about it, God revealed what he should do. This teaches us several lessons: (1) When we don't know what to do, we can count on God to **guide** us, (2) When we're wronged, we should search for a way to be both just and **merciful**, (3) When we're frustrated and anxious about a decision, we can **rest** in knowing that God is working behind the scenes to accomplish His will. Joseph took Mary as his wife, and she remained a **virgin** until she gave birth. The only fanfare for this momentous occasion was an announcement to some nearby **shepherds**. Joseph named his son Jesus, a common name that came from "**Joshua**" (lit. "Yahweh saves"). Never had that name been more fittingly given, for Christ came to seek and to save those who are lost! (Luke 19:10). Matthew and Luke both recorded Jesus' ancestry. Matthew's genealogy showed that Jesus was qualified to be the Messianic King—He was a Jew, a descendant of Abraham, and He was from the **royal** line of David (cf. Isa 9:6–7). Luke's genealogy showed that Jesus was qualified to be our Kinsman Redeemer—He was the Son of God (Luke 3:22), but he was also a **man**, a descendant of Adam (Luke 3:38).