

SERMON NOTES

Preacher: Kevin Hardy

Date: December 8, 2024

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Title: The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Big Idea: Jesus was born according to God's promises in the Scriptures, He is God with us, and He came to save His people from their sins.



I. THE BIRTH OF GOD'S SON (vv. 18-21)

- A. Mary: with child from the Holy Spirit (v. 18b)
- B. Joseph: just and righteous (v. 19)
- C. The angel of the Lord: "do not fear" (v. 20a)
 1. for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (v. 20b)

"The phrase itself could legitimately communicate the *source* (from the Holy Spirit), the *cause* (because of the Holy Spirit), or the *means* (by means of the Holy Spirit) of Jesus's birth. Whichever way we translate the phrase, the essential fact remains unchanged: this was no ordinary human conception; God was at work!"¹
 2. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus (v. 21a)
 3. for he will save his people from their sins." (v. 21b)
 - Luke 2:11; John 1:29; Acts 4:12; 5:31; 13:38-39

II. THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN (vv. 22-23)

- A. "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). (v. 23)

III. THE OBEDIENCE OF GOD'S SERVANT (vv. 24-25)

Joseph obeyed because he believed!

- A. he took his wife, (v. 24b)
- B. but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. (v. 25a)
- C. And he called his name Jesus. (v. 25b)

¹ Köstenberger & Stewart, *The First Days of Jesus*, 48.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.

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READ Matthew 1:18-25

What does the passage tell us about the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy? How does Joseph initially respond to the news of Mary's pregnancy? Why do you think Joseph is described as a "just man"? How does this influence his decision-making? What role does the angel of the Lord play in this story?

What is the significance of the names "Jesus" and "Immanuel" as mentioned in the passage? What prophecy is fulfilled in this passage, and where is it originally found in Scripture?

What is the theological significance of the virgin birth? How does the name "Immanuel" (God with us) reflect Jesus' mission? Why do you think it was important for Joseph to name the child "Jesus"?

How can we follow Joseph's example of obedience to God even when it challenges our understanding or plans? In what ways does the name "Immanuel" bring comfort or assurance to your personal life?

How does this passage encourage trust in God's plans, especially during unexpected or challenging situations? What does this story teach us about responding to fear or uncertainty with faith?

How does reflecting on the fulfillment of prophecy in this passage strengthen your faith in the reliability of God's Word?

PRAY