

## God with Us Part 1

### One of the Great Themes of Scripture Meant to Be a Reality in Our Lives

**Thesis:** Let's talk about the miracle of Christmas: God with us, which is one of the major themes of Scripture (Matthew 1:18-25). And, it is meant to be a reality in our lives.

**Text:** Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-11

#### The miracle of Christmas: God with us

*This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 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. 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." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25).*

Matthew 1:18–25 (NIV84)

1. *18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*
  - a. Matthew shares this profound mystery, but doesn't explain it: "she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit."
  - b. Though Matthew expounds nothing of its significance here, the virginal conception has regularly been understood as a way by which Jesus could be both fully human and fully divine. His father, in essence, was God, through the work of the Holy Spirit; his mother was the fully human woman, Mary. As fully God, Jesus was able to pay the eternal penalty for our sins (v. 21) for which finite humanity could not atone. As fully human he could be our adequate representative and

substitutionary sacrifice. (Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 58.)

2. *19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*
  - a. The situation described in these verses is Joseph's legal engagement to Mary.... Engagement in ancient Judaism was legally binding and required divorce if it were to be broken, but sexual relations and living together under one roof were not permitted until after the marriage ceremony. Joseph could therefore be spoken of already as Mary's husband, but Matthew emphasizes this was "before they came together." (Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 57.)
  - b. Joseph was a righteous man, meaning that he was law-abiding, upright in character, and generally obedient and faithful to God's commands. (Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 57.)
3. *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. 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."*
  - a. Again, the Scripture doesn't explain the mystery of the birth of Christ, only that "what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."
  - b. Mary, the fully human woman, will give birth to a son.
  - c. His name is to be Jesus, which means, "Yahweh saves."
  - d. Jesus, the fully human and fully divine one, will save us from our sins, which reverses the fall of Genesis 3.
4. *22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:*
  - a. In his Gospel, which was written to a Jewish audience, Matthew emphasizes the prophetic words and OT promises of God which are fulfilled in Jesus.
  - b. God gives his word, keeps his word, and fulfills his word.
5. *23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."*
  - a. Matthew is quoting Isaiah 7:14. As Pastor Steve has told us, Scripture has partial fulfillments in its time, fulfillment in Jesus, fulfillment in the church, and ultimately eschatological fulfillment when Jesus returns.
  - b. In the Garden, God walked with us (Genesis 2-3).
  - c. In Revelation 21, God puts heaven and earth together.
    - i. *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will*

*be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God (Revelation 21:3).*

- d. And this theme of "God with us" is throughout the Bible.
  - e. Jesus comes so that we can enter into the eternal fellowship to which we were called and destined as followers of the Lord and members of God's family.
6. *24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*
- a. Remember, we know that Joseph is a "righteous man," which means that he obeys the Lord in word and deed.
7. *25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

Point: The miracle of Christmas is Immanuel, God with us. God sent his Son, Jesus, so that we might have a way into his eternal family. What Jesus came to do at Christmas-- to reveal God to us and to save us from our sins-- is not meant to be a story told once a year. Rather, God with us is an invitation to know God, to live with God, and to experience the reality of God in and through us. **Is your life a reality of God with you?**

### **Celebrate the Lord's Supper.**

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).*

1. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity **to express gratitude to the Lord.**
2. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity **to meet the Lord at his table.**
3. In the Scripture, we read about the Passover Meal which the Lord Jesus shared with his disciples. Jesus reinterprets it and gives us the Lord's Supper. **We encounter Jesus at his Communion Table to remember all that he has done for us, all that he is doing, and all that he will do.**
4. By celebrating the Lord's Supper, (1) **we remember the Lord Jesus and his sacrifice**, (2) **we proclaim his gospel**, and (3) **we prophesy his return** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
5. After I pray for you, you are released to come to the table and to get the elements for the Lord's Supper.
  - a. You can return to your seat or spread out through the Prayer Room.

- b. I will call us back together with closing instructions and prayer after we have observed the Lord's Supper.