

## Matthew 1:18-23

### Immanuel – God with Us

#### Section 1: 1:18-19

*<sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.*

Joseph and Mary engaged.

- Engagement in the 1<sup>st</sup> century is different than today. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century an engagement was legally binding and required a divorce to get out of. Usually, the engagement period lasted about a year and then the wife would move into her husband's house.

Discovered Mary was pregnant.

- During this engagement waiting period, Mary becomes pregnant. Mary was discovered to be pregnant, which implies it was a surprise.
- In the book of Luke, we see how the Lord comforts Mary during this time.

Joseph a righteous man.

- Joseph is one of the few men in Scripture described as righteous. This speaks to his character and desire to live for God's glory.

Divorce her secretly.

- Being a righteous man...Joseph desired to put Mary away secretly. Why? According to the law Mary could have been stoned to death.
- Joseph didn't want to see her put to death or shamed; he was willing to offer her grace.

#### Section 2: 1:20-21

*<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Joseph considered (having pondered) these things.

- Joseph was trying to practice patient obedience. He wasn't making an overly emotional out of control decision. Joseph was slow and deliberate about his decision...which means that he was open to whatever direction the Lord was willing to take him.
- It is possible Joseph would have been familiar with the story of Hosea. This might have been in the back of his mind. Either way...he was willing to consider and ponder what the Lord would have him do.

From the Holy Spirit.

- While Joseph was pondering an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel explains that the baby is from the Holy Spirit. This is a parallel we see in the book of Genesis. In Genesis 1:2 we saw the Spirit involved in creation. Now the Spirit is involved in the incarnation.
- Throughout the Bible we see the Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together in perfect harmony. Through creation, salvation and into eternity.

Name Him Jesus.

- Jesus' name is very unique. Jesus is the Greek pronunciation and Joshua is the Hebrew pronunciation.
- Joshua is a strange Hebrew formation. Typically, in the Hebrew language the verb comes before the noun, but when you want to be over emphatic in the Hebrew language you put the subject first then the verb. The name Jesus/Joshua does just that...subject first then verb. Jesus' name literally means "The LORD saves!".
- When we understand the meaning of Jesus' name it makes verse 21 all that more powerful.

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus ("The LORD saves!"), because He will save His people from their sins.*

### Section 3: 1:22-23

*<sup>22</sup>Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>**See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel**, which is translated "God is with us."*

Fulfilled what was spoken by the Lord.

- Jesus' coming was a fulfillment of prophecy. The first prophecy was in Genesis 3:15 (CSB) - *I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.* And we are currently tracing this "offspring/seed" through the book of Genesis.

Name Him Immanuel.

- The name Immanuel was prophesied by Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14 (CSB) - *Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.*
- The name Joshua/Jesus paired with the name Immanuel is painting a clear picture for us that Jesus is not just some man...but God Himself.
- Jesus being fully God is essential to our salvation. Throughout history the enemy has been trying persuade man to separate Jesus from His deity. The enemy is fine with you thinking of Jesus as just a man, prophet, healer, miracle worker, great teacher, a man filled with the spirit and the like. Why? Because that is not who Jesus is. Jesus is nothing less than God in the flesh.
- Everything Jesus did was to point you to the fact that He is Immanuel...God with us.
  - o John 20:30-31 (CSB) - *<sup>30</sup>Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
  - o John 8:57-59 (CSB) - *<sup>57</sup>The Jews replied, "You aren't fifty years old yet, and you've seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple.*
    - The problem the Pharisees had with Jesus was that He continuously claimed to be God. Had He just claimed to be a prophet, teacher, faithful follower of God...they wouldn't have had a problem.

Matthew 16:13-16 (CSB)

*<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>"But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

## Who do you say Jesus is?