

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

God With Us

Matthew 1:18-25

The Gospel - what is it?

Man fell, God promised, God delivered on his promise - Jesus, sinless, the cross, resurrection - sin cast as far away as the east from the west - holy spirit as a guarantee of heaven

Salvation from sin - faith alone

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 10:8-13 NKJV - But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Last week - the Genealogy of Jesus

Kingly right through Mary (birth mother) and Joseph (adopted earthly father)

Son of David, Son of Abraham - of the Covenant of Faith and the Promised Heir to the Throne that would never cease

[Pray]

1:18-21

The Birth of Jesus Christ was as follows...

Matthew doesn't go into detail or even mention

- About their journey for the census
- About the town being full
- About the manger
- About the shepherds

**But he talks about the events leading up to conception
Life begins at conception
God's plans for every baby were from before the world began**

Jeremiah 1:5 NKJV - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Psalm 139:13-18 NKJV - For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully [and] wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And [that] my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, [And] skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When [as yet there were] none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! [If] I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

You're not the savior of the world, you can't even save yourself...but God always had plans for you.

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**And like we said last week, this wasn't a knee-jerk reaction to sin
God had always planned this. He knew what it would cost to make us, yet he chose to because He is love.**

Savior through woman, the one who ate first

God being born into the human race
Taking on flesh

John 1:14 NKJV - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The supernatural act of life

Incorruptible putting on corruptible

Betrothal - engagement

Parable of the bride groom - he's returning at any moment to take his bride
Away, preparing a place

The Holy Spirit caused Mary to be pregnant

Why do we imagine these things to be too difficult for God? Babies are born every day for all of history by people...why would it be unbelievable for God to have a child?

Joseph - a just man

Not just a man, a just man
righteous, observing divine laws
in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God
approved of or acceptable of God

Reminds me of Noah

Joseph could have had her stoned and been within the law
Joseph could have outed her publicly, protected his honor
But he was going to put her away quietly. Call off the wedding. Go their separate ways.
Heartbroken I'm sure, but he was doing the right thing with the information he had.

While he thought about these things

Ever faced with a problem? With a situation? Thinking about them, trying to figure out the right thing to do, the right way to approach it. Planning on how to make it work.
Shower thoughts, long drives, lying in bed not sleeping

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream

This angel was sent by God directly
But in a dream!

While he was sleeping, God spoke to Him in a dream

Dreams aren't the primary method of communication from God
His word is.
Other godly people
Prayer.

But don't discount dreams.

Many in the OT had dreams and interpreted them, Joseph being a prime example

But dreams are not a part of the regular method. They are not some of the "spiritual gifts" outlined in scripture. It is not God's usual method and we should not be caught up in them.
As fun as Inception is...

Ecclesiastes 5:3 NKJV - For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice [is known] by [his] many words.

When you have a dream, consider it - perhaps there's a lot going on and your brain is just spitting it all back at you. And even in that, it can be a helpful way to tell what's really bothering

you. But don't make it your life's mission to interpret them. That's rare and God has better ways of communicating.

But Joseph didn't have a printed Bible with notes next to his bed. Joseph may or may not have been literate. But He loved God.

Rhema vs. Logos

The angel says...

Joseph, son of David

Reminding Joseph of who his family is descended from - the King

Do not be afraid...deep down Joseph was afraid of what Mary might have done, what would happen - he wanted to marry her, but he was afraid of all that had happened

So common in scripture for God to send a message to the one chosen for a work to...not be afraid.

Don't expect the call of God to be on your life and not feel afraid at first in the flesh. It's not accomplished without the Holy Spirit

The other guy Joseph - it's The Holy Spirit

She's been faithful to you, but she's also been faithful to God

Important to remember who we are first, we are firstly God's, then anyone else's father, mother, wife, husband, son, daughter, employee, etc.

A son! What a joy in their culture for a firstborn son

A name! Jesus

Jesus = "Jehovah is salvation"

Praying for our children's names - because they are a gift from God, we wanted to name them after His desires, His plans for them - he knew them already before we did

No ultrasound!

He will save His people from their sins

Born into the Jewish nation

But anyone who believes on Him will be saved

John 17:12 NKJV - "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

John 18:8-9 NKJV - Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am [He]. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

Once you've given yourself to Jesus, He won't let go

But, we see people who turn away, go away? I wonder if they ever really were his, or if they were just around Him, knew the things about Him, but never knew Him.

:22-25

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled...

Again, everything according to God's plan and promise.

God is serious about His word.

What he says, he does.

Imagine being the prophet who prophesied, never seeing the day come in their lifetime

But the day came. And has happened.

And the rest of what is prophesied will come.

John 14:9 NKJV - Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Jesus is God's word fulfilled

The image of the invisible God

The approachable part of the one who dwells in unapproachable light

He is the way for us to God

God's word ... in the flesh.

To have. To hold. To know. To love. To be loved by.

Through the prophet - that's Isaiah, who's name means...

Isaiah or Jesaiah or Jeshaiiah = "Jehovah has saved"

His very name was a declaration of the fact that God had saved already! That in the course of time it was future for Isaiah, past for us, but always accomplished from God's eternal perspective.

If God said it, it was done. Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Isaiah 7:14-15 NKJV - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Immanuel, God with Us

That's the point. God is with us. It's not that he's chosen a side in politics. We must choose His side. But that he came down to be with us - Jesus

To know our humanity - the struggle of sin, yet not falling into it, overcoming it

The pain of death and loss - both in friends Lazarus, his family not believing Him, Joseph not being around, seeing others hurting and sick

And becoming that sin and death and loss - and being separated from His Heavenly Father on the cross

So Yes, God is with us.

Romans 8:31-32 KJV - What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

God isn't for our sin. But He's for us coming to Him and being blessed by Him in His righteousness.

We must turn and receive His goodness. It's there. It's always available. If we'd but take part in it.

The dream woke Joseph up

Both physically and spiritually. This was it. He was going to be the earthly dad of the MESSIAH. The long awaited one.

Mary was faithful to him.

What was coming wasn't going to be easy.

But Joseph was ready to be obedient and immediately.

The betrothal was over, they were married now. No big ceremony. It wasn't what they planned.

But the way to cover Mary was to make her his wife.

Not to put her away quietly

Yet they behaved as if they were betrothed, intimacy was on hold

Joseph named the boy Jesus

He knew who this child was and would be

Did he fully know? Who could. What would it look like. What would it mean.

But the identity of this baby boy was not in doubt.

He's the savior of the world.

There's no other one. No other way.