

GOOD NEWS – GREAT JOY #2

12/19/2021

Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – CHRIST'S 1st & 2nd ADVENT – Arrival or 'coming' *Latin* – 'Adventus'

- 2-fold ADVENT – remembering Christ's 1st Advent, prepping for 2nd Advent
 - Get prepared for Good News → Great Joy → Immanu'El – God WITH us

SLIDE 3 – GOOD NEWS of GREAT JOY

- Gospel Good News – Christmas Spirit
- Ready to receive – expectant – heart, soul, mind, spirit, etc...
 - Not based on circumstances or appearances – based on truth of Word
- **God's plan ≠ my plan – God's plan > my plan = EMBRACE THE PROCESS**
 - Good news of GREAT JOY = what is our response to God's declaration?
 - What happens WHEN things don't work out in the manner we hoped?
- Disappointment, unmet expectations, sadness, heartache, heartbreak, pain
- Joseph – man chosen as Jesus' father; Bible largely silent on him other than this

SLIDE 4 – MATTHEW 1:18-25 – JOSEPH

SLIDES 5-12 – MATTHEW 1:18-25

SLIDE 13 – BACKGROUND – THIS IS BIG NEWS

- Joseph & Mary are betrothed; > our concept of engaged;
- Betrothal = Actual (but incomplete/unconsummated) marriage
 - → 12 months prep for 'home taking' – *I go to prepare a place...*
 - → Can only be broken through legal divorce, w/cause
- What are the impact/ramifications does this "Good News of Great Joy?"
- Zechariah & Elizabeth → JTB, the miracle baby born to the aged
 - The forerunner to Messiah, foretold by Isaiah – 800 years prior
 - Miracle – disbelief, but in the realm of the possible (biological)
- Mary – the virgin will be overshadowed & become pregnant by HS
 - This baby will be the promised Messiah, Son of David – the fulfillment of God's promise to save & secure relationship w/all humanity that believes
- What will this mean to Joseph (& Joseph & Mary, et al)?

SLIDE 14 – JOSEPH'S RESPONSE

- Mary pregnant by HS – Son of God, Messiah, throne of David, eternal rule/reign
 - To the initial news? How would you respond?
- Disappointment, unmet expectations, sadness, heartache, heartbreak, pain?
- Joseph is a just man (faithful to the law) but not vindictive = quiet divorce
 - Public – bringing Mary in front of tribunal – divorce w/public shame
 - Private – certificate of divorce – no fanfare or public shaming
- Mary having a baby (not Joseph's) – what's the big deal?

- For Joseph & his kinsmen – Jewish law, inheritance, family rights, etc...
- Virginity – ‘proof’ against questionable paternity –
- Father = main STEM of the family – family history traced through dads
 - No decision – just considering – BIG decision, hard decision
- Angel appeared to Joseph in a dream: “Joseph, Son of David, DO NOT BE AFRAID to take Mary home (*the home taking*) b/c she is pregnant by the HS. She will give birth to a SON & you will name Him, Jesus, b/c He WILL SAVE His people from their sin.”
 - Jesus/Joshua – YHWH is salvation – Common name – hope/prayer
 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, & Daniel prophesy re: Savior comes to take sins
- **Joseph’s response:** He woke up & DID what he was commanded to do
 - Took Mary home – no sexual intimacy UNTIL post-Jesus birth
 - Joses, James, Jude, Simon + any sisters – Joseph is the father

SLIDE 15 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

- Good News/Great Joy → we can miss the disruption & difficulty in the midst
 - If I equate Good News/Great Joy ONLY w/happiness, & no inconvenience etc, I will be sorely disappointed when it actually arrives
- Good News/Great Joy → God’s promises will ALL be fulfilled
 - God’s process, God’s timing → “in the midst of it”

SLIDE 16 – DON’T FEAR...JUST BELIEVE

- Angel to Joseph – “Don’t be afraid to take Mary home... name the baby”
- Fear – how will this look? What will come of it? What will happen to me? Et al
- Advent – God is reminding us of His Good News/Great Joy → Jesus
 - In the middle of Disappointment, unmet expectations, sadness, heartache, heartbreak, pain → don’t be afraid
 - Immanu’El – God WITH us

SLIDE 17 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*

SLIDE 18 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE