



## THE GIFT OF PREVAILING PEACE

Matthew 1:18-25

- ❖ Life cannot be PERFECT. But pursuing PEACE with one another when life is challenging is what makes life BEAUTIFUL and SPECIAL.

Matthew 1:18, This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 2:1-2, <sup>1</sup> . . . rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

### Turning Difficult Times into Special Times

- 1) Everyone is imperfect . . . so DON'T DISGRACE people.

Matthew 1:19-21, <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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."

Ephesians 2:4-5, <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- 2) Everyone needs God's help . . . so GRACE people.

Matthew 1:22-23, <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Romans 2:3-4, <sup>3</sup> So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? <sup>4</sup> Or do you show contempt for the riches of his (God's) kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

- 3) Earthly living has battles . . . so FACE THEM together.

Matthew 1:24-25, <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

- ❖ Life cannot be PERFECT. But pursuing PEACE with one another when life is challenging is what makes life BEAUTIFUL and SPECIAL.

Luke 2:8-10, <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

Luke 2:13-14, <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

- ❖ Peace – (*Eirene*) - a condition of law and order that results in peace and prosperity

Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?