



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“ISAIAH 7 AND MATTHEW 1” ON NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 4, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 5:21-33

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

ISAIAH 7 AND MATTHEW 1: AHAZ, JOSEPH THE BETROTHED OF MARY, AND SIGNS – What do these three things have to do with one another? A lot, actually! Signs in the Bible point us to a place we can trust in God! As we anticipate the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus, we can rejoice that Jesus is the Christmas Sign that tells us we can TRUST God with all that we are, all that we have, and all we've been given!

Ahaz and Signs: Ahaz refused God's help, even when the LORD told him he had nothing to fear – even when the LORD TOLD Ahaz to ask Him for a sign!

- In Isaiah 7:1-12, how did the LORD encourage Ahaz regarding the threat of invasion by neighboring kings? What does this passage show us about the character of God?
- How did Ahaz respond to God's encouragement and the LORD telling him to ask God for a sign, to trust Him? What do you think of Ahaz' words in verse 12?
- Why do you think Ahaz responded to God's promptings as he did? What does his response tell us about Ahaz' character, the state of his heart, and his spiritual condition?
- Have you ever asked God to give you a sign? If so, describe how that played out. OR has God invited you to trust Him, but you pursued what you thought was a better plan? What causes us to make choices like these?

Isaiah 7:14 The Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel. God with us! We are not alone!

- What does it mean to you to know that you have 'Immanuel, God with us?' How does knowing that make you feel?
- Could you share some experiences in your life's journey when you just knew God was with you, perhaps at a high point or a low point or a special occasion? Do you live each day in the awareness and blessing of 'Immanuel, God with us?'
- How must the people living at the time Isaiah wrote this prophecy have felt about verse 14? Can you imagine their responses, their amazement, their questions, their hope?

Matthew 1:18-24 Joseph. Righteous, willing, obedient Joseph.

- Read these verses and try to imagine and describe what Joseph had to work through emotionally to grasp what was being asked of him. What factors do you think influenced his decision, and what do we see of Joseph's character as we read these verses?
- Verse 24 speaks to Joseph's obedience – how do you think he went about walking in that obedience – what thoughts were going through his mind, knowing what he was about to face in his cultural setting?

Today – Us and Signs:

- Are there indicators in your life that you are more like Joseph, or more like Ahaz?
- Ahaz refused to trust God; Joseph obediently chose to trust Him. Read Psalm 20:7 - Who or what do you trust the most in life?
- Is it Jesus, or is it something else?
- With whom will you share the news of the Christmas Sign – Jesus- this season?!



SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

For EACH part of the whole armor of God listed below, describe: 1) WHAT that piece of armor is and where you would find it, 2) WHY you need it as a follower of Christ, and 3) HOW you plan to prepare to use it to stand firm in your own battle against the scheme of the devil.

- BELT OF TRUTH
- BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
- SHOES FOR OUR FEET
- SHIELD OF FAITH
- HELMET OF SALVATION
- SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

God provides ALL of this for us, FREELY! How will you use it this week?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.