

This past month, I preached on the names of the Messiah. Immanuel. Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The Servant of the Lord. Tonight, I thought that the most fitting way to end this series was to focus on the true name of the Messiah, Jesus. Jesus is not just any name, but has deep meaning for us and for this world. Let's read again Matthew 1:18-25:

Matthew 1:18-25 - *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

Jesus is the Hebrew name Yeshua, which means salvation, or "The Lord saves." In Greek, Yeshua is translated Iesous, from where we get the name Jesus.

Psalm 14:7 - Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

Zechariah - Luke 1:76-77 - And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

Simeon - Luke 2:30-32 - For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

He will save the people from their sins. That is the main need. That is His purpose.

Now, that is interesting, because the Israelites of Jesus' time weren't looking for someone to save them from their sins. They were looking for a Messiah to save them from Roman oppression. Consider what Jesus' apostles said after he rose from the dead:

Acts 1:4-8 - On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

They expected a Messiah who would deliver them from Roman oppression. But he came for a deeper oppression, oppression from sin. He came not to destroy the power of Rome, but to destroy the power of Satan and the power of death. And as a result, many missed what he was doing and dismissed him as a fraud.

I thought this was relevant because we can have expectations and things we think he came to do. Consider what we pray for?

We want God to heal our diseases. But He did not come primarily to heal diseases, but to save us from our sin.

Mark 1:32-38 — *That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."*

He left the sick to go preach the good news, for that is why he came.

Matthew 9:1-7 – *Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." ³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" ⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to*

say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷ And the man got up and went home.

The greatest need the man had was for his sins to be forgiven.

Matthew 5:29-30 – If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, **cut it off** and throw **it** away. **It** is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Better to go through life with one hand or one eye than for your sin to land you in Hell.

We want him to give us comfortable lives. But He did not come to save us from suffering, but from sin. And sometimes it is precisely suffering that will cleanse us from our sin.

Matthew 16:24-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his **cross** and **follow** me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

We want him to restore relationships. But Jesus came to save us from our sin, from idolatry, from putting anything or any relationship above our relationship with God.

Matthew 10:32-38 - "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to **turn** "a man **against** his **father**, a daughter **against** her **mother**, a daughter-in-law **against** her mother-in-law-- ³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' ³⁷ "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

His goal for you is not the same as your goal for your own life. You think what you need is health and comfort. He knows what you need is Him. You need to be right with Him. You need to find your hope in Him. You need to be saved from your sins. And this world needs to be saved from their sins. Their rebellion against God. Their wickedness, their brokenness. Their inability to measure up to God's standard. He wants you to have life to the fullest.

Put your trust in Jesus and find eternal life.