

Sermon Notes

Advent #4 –“What’s In A Name?”

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December 14, 2025

Isaiah 9:2-7

Matthew 1:21, 16:13-20

- Matthew has 2 focuses: Jesus is the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament and Jesus is the Savior of the entire world.
 - o Matthew starts with a genealogy: includes imperfect kings and 4 women!
- Jesus’ parents imparted their teaching onto Jesus:
 - o Mary was a kind woman who said yes to God! – Luke 1:38
 - o Joseph was a man of forgiveness and grace – Matthew 1:19
 - o They both said “Yes” do doing hard things for God’s Kingdom.
- Jesus = Yehoshua = Yahweh + Yasha = God delivers.
 - o Yahweh – God’s name.
 - o Yasha – God delivers.
- Names are important!
 - o Your formal name vs. your everyday name.
 - o God changes names in the Bible to signify transformation.
 - Abram – Abraham – “Father of Nations.”
 - Jacob to Isreal – “He wrestles with God.”
 - Simon to Peter – “the rock.”
 - Saul to Paul – the greatest evangelist in history.
- Jesus has at least 26 names in the Bible!
 - o Two are given in Matthew – Jesus and Emmanuel.
- Jesus = God Saves.
 - o Saves from what?
 - o Saved = Sozo – to save AND to rescue, to deliver, to preserve.
 - o God calls us by our everyday names to get our attention to save us.

Sermon Notes Cont...

- Emmanuel = God with us.
 - o What if God were one of us? He was.
 - o God knows us.
 - Jesus lived our life.
 - Anthony de Mello – “God is found in the ordinary.”
 - o God reveals the human life to us.
 - Jesus is our tangible example of a life of faith.
 - Athanasius – “God became man so that we might become God.”
- Jesus AND Emmanuel = the full picture.
 - o None of us have lived up to our potential.
 - o We need God to save us.
 - o We need God to be with us:
 - To understand us.
 - To be our example.
 - o Philippians 3:10-14