

October 29, 2023
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Yes, He Came

Matthew 1:18-25

Join us as we explore the timeless narrative of the birth of Jesus through the lens of the Apostle Matthew (1:18-25,) where the astonishing truth of the Lord's humble beginnings is unveiled. Listen in as we unpack the royal and legal lineage of Jesus, affirming His identity as the long-awaited Messiah, and meet the extraordinary couple, Mary and Joseph, chosen to nurture the Son of God. Their journey from betrothal to the miraculous conception speaks volumes about the divine intervention in our world, fulfilling ancient prophecies and demonstrating unwavering faith in the face of the unimaginable.

In this episode, we reflect on the incredible courage and obedience of Joseph and Mary, whose responses to God's call were marked by integrity and trust. Joseph's resolve to protect Mary and embrace his role as Jesus's earthly father underlines the gravity of his divine assignment, while Mary's acceptance of her unique calling exemplifies her deep faith. Together, we examine the scriptural prophecies such as Isaiah 7:14, bringing to light the Virgin Birth's central role in the Christian doctrine and the awe-inspiring humility of Christ, as highlighted in Philippians 2:5-7.

Listen as we discuss the manifold reasons behind Jesus's entry into the world, delving into His purpose as a shepherd, a bearer of good news, and a beacon of freedom and truth. We highlight Jesus's baptism, His testimony of the Father, and His mission to sanctify us, acknowledging the complexities and challenges of the sanctification process. Concluding with the profound significance of salvation through Jesus, we extend an invitation to listeners to embrace a life of relationship with God, marked by the transformative power of His love and grace. Tune in for a heartfelt prayer and consider the step toward a life dedicated to honoring the divine narrative that continues to shape our existence.

5-Day Devotion

Day 1: The Humility of Christ's Birth

Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Devotional: Today, let us meditate on the humble beginnings of Jesus. As you read through the story of His divine conception, consider the immense faith and obedience of Mary and Joseph. They were called to a higher purpose despite their ordinary lives. Reflect on how the Lord often uses the most unexpected people and situations to fulfill His grand design. How can you embrace humility and trust in God's plan for your life?

Prayer Focus: Ask God to grant you the grace to accept His will with a humble heart, even when it challenges your expectations or understanding.

Question for Reflection: How can you demonstrate trust in God's plans, even when they differ significantly from your own?

Day 2: The Courage and Obedience of Joseph and Mary

Bible Reading: Isaiah 7:14 and Philippians 2:5-7

Devotional: In the face of societal pressure and personal heartbreak, Joseph chose to obey God's command. Mary surrendered to God's will with unwavering trust. Today, ponder the courage it took for both of them to accept God's plan. Reflect on how you can embody courage and obedience in your own walk with the Lord.

Prayer Focus: Pray for the courage to obey God's commands and the strength to stand firm in your faith against any opposition.

Question for Reflection: When has God called you to take a step of faith that required courage and obedience?

Day 3: The Purpose of Jesus' Appearance

Bible Reading: John 10:10, Matthew 10:34-42

Devotional: Jesus' mission on Earth was multifaceted. He came to shepherd His people, to offer an abundant life, and to present a clear choice between life and death. As you reflect on these verses, think about the areas in your life where Jesus is shepherding you. Consider the choices you are faced with and how they align with the life Jesus offers.

Prayer Focus: Pray for the discernment to make choices that align with the life Jesus has called you to live.

Question for Reflection: Are there aspects of your life where you might be resisting Jesus' guidance, and how can you more fully embrace His shepherdship?

Day 4: Salvation Through Jesus

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Devotional: The ultimate purpose of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection was to reconcile us to God. Today, focus on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for your sins. Reflect on the transformation that has occurred in your life since accepting Jesus as your Savior. If you have not taken this step, consider the love and grace that awaits you in Christ.

Prayer Focus: Thank God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and pray for those who have yet to receive it.

Question for Reflection: How does understanding the depth of Jesus' sacrifice impact your daily life and relationship with God?

Day 5: The Virgin Birth and Our Faith

Bible Reading: Matthew 1:21-23

Devotional: The virgin birth is a cornerstone of our faith, signifying God's power and the beginning of the fulfillment of His promises. Reflect on the meaning of Emmanuel, "God with us," and the comfort and hope this brings. Consider how this miracle deepens your faith and understanding of God's love for humanity.

Prayer Focus: Praise God for His presence in your life and pray for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the miracle of the virgin birth.

Question for Reflection: In what ways does the truth of Emmanuel, "God with us," influence how you live out your faith in the world?

For Further Reflection:

Questions for Consideration and Prayer

1. Reflecting on Matthew 1:18-25, what does the humility and humanity of Jesus' birth teach us about God's approach to entering our world? How can we apply this understanding of humility in our own lives?
2. Consider the faith and obedience of Mary and Joseph in light of cultural and societal pressures. Discuss a time when you have had to stand firm in your faith despite challenges. How does Hebrews 11:1 enhance our understanding of faith in such situations?
3. Isaiah 7:14 prophesied the birth of Jesus hundreds of years before it happened. How does this fulfillment of prophecy strengthen your trust in God's plan and His Word?
4. Philippians 2:5-7 speaks to Christ's humility in His incarnation. Discuss the implications of this for how we view power, status, and service in the Christian life. How does this contrast with the world's view of power and prestige?

5. In light of the sermon's examination of Jesus' purpose (to shepherd, bring good news, and sanctify), how can we more effectively live out these aspects of His mission in our communities?
6. Considering the sermon's emphasis on Jesus as the way to salvation, how does John 14:6 shape our understanding of the exclusivity of Christ as the path to a relationship with God?
7. Reflect on the virgin birth of Jesus and its essential role in Christian doctrine. Why is it important for our faith to uphold this miracle, and what does it signify about the nature of Christ and His mission?
8. The sermon highlights the idea of sanctification as a process. How does 1 Peter 1:15-16 inform our journey of becoming more like Christ, and what are some practical steps we can take in this lifelong process?
9. As we think about the divine intervention in the birth of our Messiah, how can we be more attentive to the ways God is working in our own lives? Share experiences where you have witnessed or felt divine intervention.
10. The sermon concludes with an invitation to a transformative journey marked by God's love and grace. Discuss what it means to live a transformed life in Christ and how Romans 12:1-2 guides us in this transformation.

Quotes:

"The Lord of the Universe came as a little baby, reshaping our understanding of love, hope, and redemption."

"Mary and Joseph's responses to the unexpected pregnancy and all the adversity they faced serve as powerful examples of faith, courage, and integrity."

"Jesus's humility in taking human form speaks of the wonder of God's plan for redemption."

"Jesus serves as our shepherd, offering protection, guidance, and the promise of an abundant life."

"The message of salvation through Jesus is an act of love in reconciling humanity to God."

"Mary's trust in God amidst the incomprehensible is a lesson in faith for us all."

"God intervenes in the fabric of time, inviting us to know our Savior and be restored to Him."

Keywords: Faith, Redemption, Obedience, Courage, Humility