

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**Sunday December 5, 2021. "Advent (Joy). "What's in a Name: Mighty God"**

### **I Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message this Sunday. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We're now in the season of Advent and Christmas is just around the corner. We hope you will join us either in person or virtually as we celebrate this season. A great group of familiar and new faces join us each Sunday. Our children's, youth areas and coffee spot have been fully open also, and we're seeing a good response. We're so encouraged by your love and presence when you gather with us. If you're still joining us online, we love and so appreciate your presence also. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is ANYTHING you need, prayer, ideas or suggestions, please pass them our way. We know the future is still uncertain, but we are committed to making our virtual congregation as central to NCC as our in person group.

### **II Recap.**

This was our second Sunday in our Advent series; **"What a Name"**, looking at the names given to the coming light, the messiah from Isaiah 9. Last week we looked at; **"Wonderful Counselor"**. We broke down each word, and then combined them to come up with this understanding of how we can benefit from a Wonderful Counselor. Wonderful simply describes a thing as beyond ordinary. It's awe inspiring and incomparable. And then when you attach Wonderful to Counselor- a source of wisdom, insight, and truths that are helpful in everyday life, you then have incomparable truths to help you out in your daily life. How could that not bring hope and meaning to your life.

### **III Sunday.**

This Sunday we covered the second description of this coming light... **"Mighty God"**. Again we broke down the two words, described what each means, and then what they look like as a single idea. So, let's play with these words before we talk about them.

**What does 'Mighty' mean to you? What makes 'Mighty' extraordinary?**

**And then the word, idea, understanding of God can be kind of a challenge. What is your understanding of God?**

Go ahead and reread the passage we used, **Isaiah 9:2-6**, we'll be using it for all of Advent. Interact with it considering this Sunday's theme of **"Mighty God"**.

**What jumped out to you from this passage?**

**How important would a 'Mighty God' be in the time and environment of that time?**

**What could that mean to us today?**

Let's look at these two words like we did last week, to see how we can find truth that will help us today.

**MIGHTY**- since it refers to the divine, it's a totally different type of power. Protector, defender, greatest out of all the others. Mighty usually compared 'like' with 'like'. Tigers aren't considered mighty when compared to a mouse. But the greatest of tigers is mighty when compared to all the other tigers. So, Mighty is understood, meant to stand out from others that are the same. *"Simply the best...better than all the rest."* as Tina Turner sang. So, this use of Mighty as a name, has specific attributes in it that we have to consider when we then talk about God.

**God**- kind of 'felt' intuitive; unmatched, timeless, unlike any other, before there was anything else. We talked before about the power of naming, because it helps build a framework, structure of understanding, of that thing being named. It gives you some amount of control over it when you can know it's name. What makes the naming of things interesting is when something cannot be named. In **Exodus 3**- in the calling of Moses, God says; ***"Go to Pharaoh and tell him you've come to free the Israelites from captivity."*** Moses says: ***"Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers- has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' What will I tell them?"*** God said; ***"I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites. 'I AM has sent you'"***

Or; ***"I WILL BE WHATEVER I WILL BE, has sent you."***

In our 'naming', we are recognizing and admitting, when it comes to God, we cannot confine God to a name. Ancient Israelites did not use an actual pronounceable name for God. Just the understanding **YHWH**, pronounced Yahweh, or simply just an actual breath, was used. Anytime we try to explain, contain God into a box of words we all agree upon and understand, then God ceases being God. He becomes a concept, an idea, boundaried, we just reduced to a set of words.

**E. Mighty God**. Combining these two ideas into **Mighty God**, we see of all of the different understandings of gods out there, this is the one. This God is the supreme above all. There are no equals or comparisons. Any attempt to confine this God to a book, a set of rules, or whatever, is impossible. So, our understanding is any attempt to capture this God, his essence, is beyond our ability to put into words. We use the word God, but we are told that is not his name, it's a connecting point. He is one who cannot be named.

**Knowing this, how can you benefit from a Mighty God?**

#### **IV Challenge**.

So, in wrapping up, we close with these questions.

**Where in your life, what are you dealing with, struggling with, uncertain how to handle whatever it is you're going through that a Mighty God would be exactly what you needed in this moment?**

**How could the knowledge and a relationship with a MIGHTY God bring you JOY in the midst of whatever it is you're going through?**

Know for certain you have a God who is greater than anything you can comprehend.