



IMMANUEL

GOD WITH US

Immanuel Part 1

12/3/23

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 1:18-25, ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken

by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today! In Jesus name, Amen.

Throughout the Month of December as we all prepare to celebrate the Christmas Holiday season, I will be teaching through a series focusing on this prophetic decree and insight of Messiah. That He shall be the literal manifestation of God with Us. He was truly Immanuel in all manners because our Immanuel desires to be with us! But what does that look like in everyday life?

Allow me to speak into a matter that I believe is important for you all to hear today; just because Christ doesn't save you FROM something does not mean He is unable to deliver you IN something.

- God didn't deliver Israel FROM the bondage of Egypt but rather IN the bondage of Egypt.
- God didn't deliver the Hebrew boys FROM the furnace but rather IN the furnace
- God didn't deliver Daniel FROM the lion's den but rather IN the lion's den

- God didn't deliver Jesus FROM the Cross but rather IN the Cross!

God becomes Immanuel when He becomes God with us IN our lives and not FROM our lives! And it is from this position that I desire to minister to you all today the following points:

1. Our Immanuel is with us in our grief and loss though He may not always deliver us FROM our grief and loss!

a. 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, “⁷ for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

b. Church, it is easy to see that even the Apostles, the head of the Church at this time, navigated grief, distress, affliction, loss and so forth. However, the Lord did not deliver from it but rather in it!

- c. Simply put, allow me to ask a question. How would we ever know that God was able if we never encountered matters of life that required His ability and not our own!
- d. Our Immanuel is with us in our emotional distress and our fears. He is with us on the mountain tops of life and in the valleys of life! He has not and never will abandon us!
- e. Because He is our Immanuel! He is God with Us and He is with Us! IN all things and always one to deliver FROM all things!
- f. But not only is our Immanuel is with us in our grief and loss, Point #2...

2. Our Immanuel is with us in our brokenness and our shame though He may not always deliver us FROM our brokenness and shame!

- a. The Gospel of Saint John 8:3-11, ³“The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

- b. The beautiful outcome of this passage of text is not that the crowds walked away but rather that Jesus refused to walk away! And in this text, we see the truest expression of the Heart of the Master! Friends, He was and is with us in our brokenness and our shame though He may not always deliver us FROM our brokenness and shame! He is not just Immanuel to the Saint! He’s Immanuel to the Sinner, too!
- c. He did not deliver this woman from her brokenness and shame but He was with her in her brokenness and shame!
- d. And some of you today may have come here today bound in shame and brokenness, addiction and bondage. But dear heart, know this! He is your Immanuel today!

- e. And when everyone else walks away, you will find Jesus kneeling in the dirt of your life while taking His Holy Hands and begin to write a new story out of the mess that you've made of your life!
- f. Friend, Jesus is with us in our brokenness and our shame but remember, He's the only one who can restore everything we've broken... He found the woman in Sin but His Grace came with a closing statement to her restoration; "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." Point #3 today...

3. Our Immanuel is with us in victory and in defeat though He may not always deliver us FROM every defeat or TO every victory!

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:6-10, "6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of

Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

- b. For the sake of Christ, I am Content in Victory and Defeat because no matter what I am navigating, He is with Me!
- c. He is with me when the enemy of my soul is attacking me! He is with me when things are said about me that are not true.
- d. He is with me when I succeed! He is with me when I win and has granted me favor to do so!
- e. But He is also with me when I don't make the best of decisions, when I fail in the walk of faith, but thank God, that when I fail, when I fall, when I make mistakes, when I slip, He is with me! And He bids me rise back up again and keep walking! **JUST KEEP WALKING!!! (PREACH)**
- f. Our Immanuel is with us at all times, in all times, and through all times. **OUR GOD IS WITH US!!!**