



Hope has a Name

Hope Has a Name – Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6)

Preached 12/12/21

When you think of all the names attributed to Jesus, which one stands out to you?

Discussion:

1. Joseph did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace so he decided to divorce her quietly. What does this tell you about the type of man Joseph was? For the men in this discussion, what stands out to you most about Joseph in this passage?
2. When we look at Jesus' birth account, we often ask questions about Joseph like, "how do you think Joseph felt?" or "how would you have felt if you were Joseph?". The reality is that he first thought Mary betrayed him and was unfaithful. When have you lost trust in someone? Did you ever regain trust in that person? If not, what would have to happen for you to trust in them again?
3. The angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Joseph son of David..." Why did the angel identify Joseph like this and why are these words so powerful? Why is it important to be reminded that God addresses us personally?
4. Share of a time when God's counsel has helped you before. Share of a time when you wished his counsel was a little more clear and recognizable.
5. God's counsel comes to us in a variety of forms. Jesus is given the name of Wonderful Counselor, an angel appeared to Joseph, and we are told that the Holy Spirit helps us (John 14:16-17; 16:7,13). Even when we feel like we are alone, we are not alone. How does recognizing God's counseling presence influence the way we make life decisions? How should we approach these life decisions?

Next Steps:

What areas of your life do you really need counsel? In what ways can you lean into God's Spirit for help this Christmas season?

Next Week: Hope Has a Name – Mighty God