

## Sermon Supplement

### Matthew 1:18-25

### *A Christmas Litany: A New Peace*

#### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

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1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Jesus is the true and better Anointed One promised in the Old Testament – the Incarnate Son of God. He is the only peace for Christians AND the only peace for non-Christians.
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

#### KEY WORDS/THEMES

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1. **Betrothed** (*mnēsteuō*) **v. 18** – to become engaged to someone; for Joseph and Mary it was almost total marriage. It was the beginning of marriage without consummation and moving in. So, the word ‘divorce’ was fitting, relationally and legally; see also, Lk. 1:27; 2:5.
2. **Jesus** (*Iēsous*) **vv. 1, 21, 25** – the Greek form of the name, Joshua; it was a common name among Jewish people for this reason; meaning ‘Yahweh is salvation’ (Ex. 24:13) or ‘Yahweh saves’ (Neh. 7:7).
3. **Immanuel** (*Emmanouēl*) **v. 23** – In a quotation from Isaiah 7:14, applied to Jesus, meaning ‘God with us.’ Compare Matt. 28:20 and Jesus’ promise to his disciples, ‘I am with you always.’

#### STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

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- I. How Jesus Came (**vv. 18-23**)
  - A. Jesus came to a virgin by means of the Holy Spirit. (**v. 18**)
  - B. Jesus came to an adoptive father. (**vv. 19-20**)
  - C. Jesus came to a world that needed salvation and needed God himself. (**vv. 21-23**)
- II. Who is Jesus? (**vv. 21-23**)
  - A. Jesus is the Incarnate Son of God.
  - B. Jesus is the Savior. (**v. 21**)
  - C. Jesus is God with us. (**v. 23**)
- III. What does Jesus mean for the midpoint of a global pandemic at the end of a year so crazy that one day we will look back and ask ourselves: did that really happen?

## **GOSPEL CENTRALITY**

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God became one of us – GOD WITH US – in order to save us from our sins.

## **KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN**

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- What have been some of the challenges of the last several months? What have been some of the triumphs?
- What is the 'junk' that COVID has been exposing in your life? What are some of the 'itches' that you have been trying to scratch in your own power?
- When things don't go as planned, in what ways have you been 'trying harder'? In what ways have you been loosening your grip?
- How has Jesus met you in the midst of this season of life? Where has God seemed to be silent?

## **RESPONDING IN PRAYER**

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- Thank God for sending Jesus, the true and better Anointed One – the Incarnate Son of God – our only peace, who pursues us even when we flee from Him
- Spend some time crying out to Jesus to meet you and your group in the midst of this 'crazy' season.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that their eyes would be opened to who He is and their hearts would be drawn to Him.