

The Name Above All Names

39 - Living the Simple Gospel: Philippians
Church on the Park | Christmas Eve Service, 24 DEC 2017

Text: Matthew 1:18-25; Philippians 2:5-11

Theme: There is no other name greater than Jesus, nor will there ever be.

Intro: Today, I want to read and reflect on Matthew 1:18-25, the account of Jesus' birth. This account focuses on the event from Joseph's perspective, while Luke conveys Mary's perspective. First, I want to point out the optics of fulfilling God's will. Second, I'd like us to see that our problems are much deeper than what they first appear. Third, I want to reflect on the gentleness of God. But my main focus is on Jesus: what his name means and why his name is so important

1) Fear often is the greatest hinderance to fulfilling the Father's will (Matthew 1:18-20).

- *Do you know the Father has a purpose for your life?*
 - Discovering his will is one of the most revolutionary things that can happen in your life. Doing that will cause you to be celebrated in heaven.
- In doing God's will, the optics will often look bad.
 - Do you know what I mean by optics?
 - What people see will cause them to condemn you. You will have to lay down your reputation to take up godly character.
 - Our problems as mankind lay far beyond appearance.
 - You may appear right, but be very wrong in God's eyes. You also may appear wrong to people, but be right in God's eyes.
- Joseph was posed with an ethical dilemma: 1) Either look righteous and not marry Mary, or 2) Look unrighteous and marry Mary.
 - He chose rightly: to look unrighteous, but to do the Father's will.
- Joseph was fearful of doing the Father's will—it would cost him his reputation.
 - That's why the angel said to him: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife..." (Matt. 1:20).
- Don't let fear rob you of fulfilling the Father's purpose for your life.

2) Our struggles are much deeper than what they first appear (Matthew 1:21-22).

- Before Jesus, all of Israel's leaders saved God's people outwardly.
 - Noah saved his family from a cataclysmic flood.
 - Moses saved his people from slavery.
 - Joshua saved his people from homelessness.
 - David saved his people from the Philistines.
- However, Jesus saved his people from the real problem, the real issue: sin.
 - What is sin? It's disobedience to God. It's the root cause of every struggle and problem in the world today.
 - Our problems are much deeper than what they appear.
 - So it took Joseph going against appearance, to help bring a mighty deliverance.
- *What does the name 'Jesus' mean?*
 - God gives Jesus his name. But what is it's significance.
 - In Philippians 2:5-11 we read that Jesus is the name above every other name.
 - The name Jesus is made up of two components in Hebrew.
 - Ye = Yah = Yahweh (Lord, God's personal name)
 - Shua = Salvation
 - The name means Yahweh saves.
- Yet, what is the name Yahweh? Or YHVH
 - This is God's personal name, given to Moses in Exodus 3.
 - Here God comes down to save.
 - Yahweh is from the Hebrew word 'to be' (is, was and will be).
 - The Lord is personal. Pledging his very life to your salvation.
- This is the principal thing the Lord wants us to know about himself—he saves.

- In other words, he is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and truth. He keeps on loving for generations; who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin.
- We need salvation from sin, self and Satan.
- The whole Christian life is the progressive salvation of our soul, and the salvation of the network of relationships around us. He wants to save your business, save the government and save all of creation. Nothing is truly saved until it reflects the nature and character of Jesus Christ himself.

3) Immanuel, God with us, means that God is gentle (Matt. 1:22-25).

- Have you ever reflected on the gentleness of Jesus?
 - Here is the all powerful God. With one word, he can wipe out all of creation. In the book of Revelation, we read about the heavens and the earth fleeing from his presence. He is the all-consuming fire. And yet, with all his strength and power, he becomes a child. That is the gentleness, the meekness, of Christ.
- His gentleness is impressive because he is omnipotent.
- Why didn't the US presidents use their nuclear weapons to wipe out North Korea?
 - There is a reason. It's because the innocent would die with the wicked.
 - Yes, one nuclear bomb can destroy a rebellious people, but their will be great casualties.
 - This is also why the Lord delays his wrath on earth. Sure, he can get rid of the weeds, but in doing so he would also pull up the wheat (Matt. 13:24-30). He is waiting till the fullness of time. Now, is a time of mercy. God has become a man and is drawing all people to himself.
- Jesus became gentle, a little child, so that he can save you.
- A couple week's ago there was a large snake in the front yard across the street. It strangled a possum to death and ate it, stretching it's mouth to five times its normal size.
 - The enemy of your soul is like that—very forceful—wanting to choke you from life, wanting to swallow you 'alive.'
- But Jesus is different, he is a gentle Savior.
 - He says, "Come to me you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..." (Matt. 11:28-30).
- He comes not to crush you, but to save you.

Conclusion: Today, Jesus is knocking. Will you let him be JESUS to you? The one who will save you from your sins. Will you let him be IMMANUEL to you? God who is with you personally and intimately.

END NOTES

The Name of Jesus

How we received Gideon's name.

Matthew 1:18-25

Philippians 2:5-11 says God "bestowed on him the name, which is above every name."

A name represents the person and character.

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

Before Jesus, all of the kings and leaders of Israel saved people from outward things, like slavery, oppression, poverty, abuse and famine. But Jesus, saves his people from sin. This is the most important salvation because sin is the root of slavery, oppression and corruption.

Noah saved his family from a flood. Moses saved Israel from slavery. David saved his people from the Philistines. But Jesus saves us from Satan and sin.

What does Jesus' name mean? In Hebrew it's Yeshua. It comes from two words: 1) Yah (short for Yahweh or YHVH), and 2) Shua (meaning salvation). Yeshua is a shortened form of Yehoshua or Joshua. Yeshua means Yahweh saves.

Compare with Exodus 3

The burning bush.

Understanding the word 'LORD'

His name is also Immanuel: "God with us!" (Matt. 1:23).

God's gentleness causes him to be with us. Jesus' gentleness causes him to hang on the cross rather than call 12,000 angels to come and save him. He did not allow himself to be saved from the cross so that you yourself can be saved.

Computers: Refresh, Restart, Rebuild.

The snake and the possum.

Valerie choking at Costco.