

December 11, 2016
Matthew 1:18-25

IMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

I. Introduction:

The Westminster Confession of Faith:

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: The Chief End of Man is to glorify God and
Enjoy Him forever.

How Can We **Enjoy** God Amidst Trials?

II. Unpacking The Passage:

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was **a righteous man** and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to **give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**”—which means, “**God with us**.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him **and took Mary home as his wife**. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And **he gave him the name Jesus**.

III. Lessons:

1.) They Learned That No One Is Immune To Trials:

- Joseph was a righteous man
- Mary had found favor with God

Both had trials

2.) They Recognized Amidst Their Trials The Promise That God Was With Them

Matthew chapter 1 begins with:

²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” ^[a] (which means “**God with us**”). Matthew 1:23

Matthew 28 Ends with:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of December 11th to 17th
Immanuel: God With Us
Matthew 1:18-25

Open It:

1. What are the tabloid headlines this week?
2. *Why is our society so drawn to gossip and scandal?
3. How do people typically react when facing embarrassing situations?

Explore It:

4. *What happened to Mary while she and Joseph were engaged? (1:18)
5. What do you think Joseph initially thought upon hearing this news about his bride-to-be? (1:18-19)
6. *What positive character qualities did Joseph possess? (1:19)
7. How did Joseph plan to handle this delicate situation? (1:19)
8. How was Joseph's ancestry significant? (1:20)
9. *Why did Joseph change his plans to divorce Mary? (1:20)
10. If Joseph wasn't the actual father of Christ, who was? (1:18, 20)
11. What did the angel command Joseph to name the child and why? (1:21)

12. What significant mission in life would Mary's child have? (1:21)
13. Why is Mary's virginal conception of Christ significant? (1:22-23)
14. What does Immanuel mean? (1:23)
15. How did Joseph respond to the angelic message? (1:24)

Get It:

16. *How might you have responded in Mary's situation?
17. What would have been your reaction had you been in Joseph's situation?
18. How do you think a typical church might have handled Mary's pre-marriage pregnancy?
19. How do you imagine the "grapevine" treated the Mary-Joseph situation?
20. How does it feel to be the victim of unsubstantiated rumors and gossip?
21. How does it feel to know that you are innocent and yet have people attacking your character and whispering behind your back?
22. *How does our desire for approval or acceptance keep us from doing the right thing?

Apply It:

23. What difficult, hard-to-swallow command of God do you need to obey today?
24. *How will you respond the next time someone begins to tell you a juicy bit of gossip?