Daily Devotion For December 22, 2022

"The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means '**God is with us**.'" Matthew 1:23

In the days of Joseph and Mary, betrothals were almost like being married. Betrothed couples were treated as though they were husband and wife.   So when Mary revealed to Joseph that she supernaturally had the Messiah in her womb, Joseph didn't know what to do. He loved her, but he didn't want to go ahead with the marriage.

The Bible tells us that Joseph was a righteous man. He wanted to do the right thing, but he basically had only two options: (1) publicly tell everyone, which meant that Mary could have been stoned, or (2) put Mary away privately and terminate their relationship.

Joseph chose the second option, but God had different plans. Matthew's gospel tells us, "As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins'" Matthew 1:20–21

In other words, the child in Mary's womb was the very Messiah. Matthew continues, "All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: 'Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means "**God is with us**"

Thought for Today.   The essence of Christianity is **God is with us**. Christianity says that we are never alone again. How does the knowledge that God is with you help you in your daily life?

Today's Prayer Focus: Praise God that He is Omnipresent, (Everywhere present at one time.). Thank God for his abiding presence in your life.   Deo Volente.