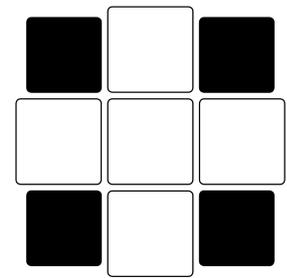


A Savior Who Draws Near

Scripture: **Matthew 1:18-23**

Series: **Advent 2016: Comfort & Joy**

Sunday, December 4, 2016



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Overview

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (God with Us)”. As we celebrate Christmas and advent we must remember that **“God with us” is the promise of the Gospel and it is the point of Christmas.** *What does it mean? What difference does it make in our lives? What is our response?*

Corroborating Texts

Isaiah 7:14; Colossians 2:9; 1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 59:1; Hebrews 4:15-16; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 11:6; James 4:8

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 1:18-23. What is the spirit of Christmas? [God drawing near is the truth that transcends the holiday and shows us our greatest need; that we must be brought to God and reconciled to him through Jesus]
2. What does “God with us” mean? [Christ born fulfills the prophecy that we see in Isaiah 7:14; the fullness of God is seen in Jesus (Colossians 2:9); we are able to draw near to God because he first drew near to use through the life, death and resurrection of Christ]
3. What difference does this make in our lives? [God drawing near to you will not change your *circumstances*, it will change *you*. It will change your heart, mind, soul and spirit. It will equip you and enable you to endure your circumstances with Joy in your salvation]
4. God will draw near to you whether you want him to or not. In what two ways will He draw near to us? [He will draw near either in Jesus Christ that you will receive Him by faith; or he will draw near in Judgment. It will either be a time of joyful reception, or fearful judgment]
5. How do we respond? [Draw near to God by faith, which is only possible because he has done it first; he approached us through Christ saving, offering cleansing and renewal. Respond in faith and repentance not through works or rituals. Without fear] (Hebrews 4:15-16; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 11:6; James 4:8)
6. Are you far from God? [Some are far from God, whether unbelieving or cold; draw near to God. Nearness of God will be your good; He won't just be close to you, He will be with you. He won't just be with you, he will be for your. He won't just be for you, He will dwell in you. Identify your sins, turn away from them and trust in Christ. God with us is the promise of the Gospel and it is the point of Christmas.]