

“A Message from Heaven”

Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve Services

2:00 pm and 4:00 pm

December 24, 2020

Introduction: On Sunday morning, December 13, I preached a sermon entitled “A Message from Bethlehem” about the birth of Jesus from Luke chapter 2. The message was that God uses ordinary people in ordinary places in ordinary circumstances to do extra ordinary things. Over and over I have seen many ordinary people in ordinary places with ordinary circumstances be used by God to do extraordinary things for God.

On this Christmas Eve, I want us to think about a Message from Heaven about the birth of Jesus from Matthew chapter 1.

Text: Matthew 1: 18-25 (NLT)

Question: What is the message from Heaven about the birth of Jesus in Matthew Chapter 1?

Answer: The message is two-fold.

1. Salvation is available.
2. You never have to be alone.

T.S. This is what we celebrate on Christmas Eve with the bread and juice.

1. Salvation is available (Matthew 1:21).

- Sin is the worst Pandemic the world ever experienced. It is far worse than COVID-19. Why? It is worse because everybody has it. We are born with it. The Bible says, “Just as through one-man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

- In David's prayer of repentance for his sin with Bathsheba, he prayed, "I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5).
- Everybody is infected with a sin nature. Everybody is not infected with COVID-19.

Illustration: God has provided a "vaccine" for our sin nature and it is Jesus! The Bible says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin" (Ephesians 1:7).

Application: You cannot separate the cradle from the cross. Jesus had to be born before He could die.

T.S. The second part of the message from heaven about the birth of Jesus in Matthew chapter 1 is that you never have to be alone.

2. You never have to be alone (Matthew 1:23).

- In Matthew 1:23, we see the word "Immanuel" which means "God with us."
- The Bible says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14).
- Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).
- Moses' farewell words to the Hebrew people before shortly before he died were, "Do not be afraid. God will go with you and He will never leave you" (Deut. 31:6,8).
- One of the great "perks" of being a Christian is that you never have to be alone.

Illustration: The thought of being alone can be paralyzing. The thought of someone you love being alone can be paralyzing.

Application: The good news is that we never have to be alone. God is always with us. We have His word on that!

Conclusion: Other than knowing you will go to heaven when you die, knowing that you never have to be alone may be your second best “perk” of being a Christian.