

SERMON GUIDE

Immanuel is God

Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1:23



12.10.2023

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1:23

SERMON NOTES:

If a lady receives unanticipated or “forgotten” dollars. Those dollars can then serve as magical discount codes for items they desire to acquire.

Fellas, just listen.

“Ladies, It’s sunny Saturday afternoon and you pull up to your favorite local store. You receive a notification that you were paid \$20 for dog-sitting someone’s Aussie Doodle last week. Ah! Looka there! I just so happened to be at my favorite store. Oddly convenient! Impeccable timing.

You walk into your store... AH... there it is... Another plant... that you don’t need. That you’re not going to take care of and it’s going to die in a week. The plant is \$22 dollars and you remember that you got a Venmo of \$20.

LADIES, how much is that plant now? Girl Math aka Deception.

In a serious way though, we have done this ultimately in our lives. Scripture says we have taken what God says is objective and exchanged it for lies, and because of that we are in a serious predicament before a God who is holy and angry with sinners.

That is indeed the bad news. The good news is that the same God that we stood before condemned, is the same God who has eternally desired to redeem a people to Himself, He is the same God who has redeemed a people to Himself, and He is the same AND ONLY God that could redeem a people to Himself.

And that last point will be our focus for this morning. That inside of the infinite wisdom of God He has eternally possessed a plan to send His Son to condescend to the earth to accomplish salvation for His bride and how that is the only way salvation is made possible for sinners like me and you.

I want to divide this sermon into two questions and answers:

#1 What does it mean that God became man?

#2 How are we beneficiaries of God becoming man?

EXEGESIS

#1 What does it mean that God became man?

Tatum Bayliss, a senior in our student ministry, wrote a fantastic paper... on this topic. She had to choose a topic to write on for a scholarship and begin to brainstorm the easiest topics ever. She loves the doctrine. It should produce awe. It can be stated simply, but it is indeed a supernatural meaning that should leave us with both awe and gratitude.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This is a doctrine called the **Hypostatic Union**. It derives from the Greek word hypostasis meaning substance.

We see this in **Hebrews 1:3** -- *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Jesus is the exact likeness of God. Is God Himself in the flesh and to see and know Him is to see and know God. We also see these truths in John 1.

John 1:14 -- *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The Word that was eternally God and with God, became something that He was not eternally— man. And this Man came to dwell among us.

There is a union of Jesus's two natures. Is Jesus divine or human, you ask? Yes. Why yes He is.

WHAT THIS DOESN'T MEAN?

Christ is not a mixture of divinity and humanity or a portion of divinity and humanity. He is truly God and truly human. These two natures are joined together in one person, our Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the fullness of God, but not only God. He is truly a man, but no ordinary man.

As the Apostle's Creed confesses, He was "...conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary." Perhaps you're asking what that has to do with the hypostatic union? Well, it's the very explanation of it.

Galatians 4:4-5 -- *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

The plan to save did not begin with a whiteboard session or excel sheet. It was the eternal plan, and that plan manifested into a tangible time that was predetermined by God to send His Son. His Son, as prophesied in Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14 would be born of a woman because He had to be man to bear the due penalty for our errors, yet He was conceived by the Holy Spirit because it was the work our Federal Head Adam that Jesus, our new Head, had to pay for and His curse that He had to come

and undo. That being said, Jesus could not have been conceived by man, lest He too inherit the same sin nature we had and could not make us righteous, because He, like us, would not have a righteousness of His own to give.

David, confessed in **Psalm 51:5** -- ***“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”***

Jesus is from the line of David, but He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in other words, biology 101, the results are in, sinful man ain't the daddy! Therefore, Christ has a different story and it is because of that, He is the only sufficient and efficient Savior for us.

This brings me to the second half of the sermon. **SO WHAT?** What does any of this matter? What's in it for us?

#2 How are we beneficiaries of God becoming man?

In what ways do we benefit from Immanuel?

Downstream from this baby being born was an eternal plan for Him to be sent along with an agenda.

To purchase His church.

I got into a TikTok debate earlier this year. We went back and forth for a few days. One question that He asked me during that time, to this day just rang out in my head. “What is the big deal of a man dying on a cross?” Oh, church. What a big deal that is! What is folly to those who are perishing is so central to our greatest hope.

#1 Benefit — Christ, Immanuel, God with us, is the vicarious substitutionary atonement.

Hebrews 10:4 -- ***For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.***

1 Peter 2:24 -- ***He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.***

Vicarious - Christ suffered vicariously on the cross, meaning that there was something he was experiencing (the punishment for our sins) in real time because He was bearing our grief and sins as they were condemned in His flesh.

Substitutionary - It was Christ in our place. God is not in the business of overlooking sin. Sin had to be punished, but in love He has eternally chosen to spare His bride, and in the sparing of His bride, He needed to pour out His wrath on someone in our place. Someone who was perfect in righteousness that could exchange His righteousness for our sins.

Atonement - To atone means to cover or take away. Christ made amends through His perfect sacrifice that removed the guilt of sin from us and imparting His righteousness to us. Christ has brought us from alienation to reconciliation.

God is holy, so he can't just excuse sin. If He did, His own righteousness would be at stake and because of that, so would His justice. So what needed to take place for sinners to be made right with God? Bloodshed. Death. But not only bloodshed and death, but perfect righteousness needed to be imparted to us. Christ was the perfect substitute that was condemned in our place and His birth was the manifestation of that promise. Immanuel, God with us! The perfect Lamb that has come to save!

#2 Benefit — Christ, Immanuel, God with us, brings us genuine comfort and peace in the midst of our circumstances.

The presence of God was not foreign to the people of God. They were used to hearing that God is with them and that He is near and will never forsake them.

But in the incarnation of Jesus, this was a dwelling like none of God's people have ever seen. The Priest of all Priests, the Prophet of all Prophets, the King of all Kings, humbled Himself and took on flesh to dwell with them. Church, He didn't come down here to join the party. He didn't come to just get the human experience. He came to call His people to Himself, not a mere doctrine or a better life, but He came to draw them to Himself, the very person of Christ.

WE READ STORIES LIKE:

He came down and touched leper's. He healed kids.

He gave sight to the blind. He knew the outcasts.

He was a Shepherd to the shepherdless. He was a friend to sinners.

He was gentle with the sexual immoral. He comforted His disciples.

He brought hope to those who felt like they were in an endless cycle of sin.

He was born to die, absolutely, but what happened in between were no side missions or side quests, He came to bring real life comfort right now and He's still doing that right now through the Holy Spirit who indwells believers, who is our Helper and mediates the presence of Christ and His promises and strengthens us until He calls us home.

Doesn't that really change everything for us? Immanuel, God with us, hits differently when we understand the implications of it. God with us. He came to us. Church, who are we that He would be mindful of us, yet dwell with these creatures who have acted like beasts before Him. To come and dwell amongst wicked sinners, to be able to be in their presence while restraining His power to just crush us at in instance and could have justified doing so. Only to bear our sins and spare us from the wrath of God on the cross.

I want you to imagine if you heard that screaming cry or saw that baby in the manger. Remembering the ancient and true promises of God that through the seed of a woman He will come to crush Satan and evil.

The proof of God being faithful to His own promises is swaddled right up in that manger as a gift that will bring you peace with God. Oh, church what a sight!

If you need any proof of the love of God behold the manger and the cross. It tells us everything we need to know.

Colossians 1:21-22 -- 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Don't overlook yourself in that passage. God sent His Son to be crushed under His wrath, not just get His anger out, but that **HE MIGHT ACQUIRE YOU! A PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN POSSESSION.**

Church, there has never been a point in history where you, not only existed in the mind of God, but also there was never a time where you were not inside the mind of God and claimed to be His own. You were never an afterthought. The coming and arrival of Christ manifested the mysterious eternal plan of God to rescue His bride from Himself for Himself. Oh, church, Christ has come! Let us rejoice and be glad today!

LOOK BACK

- How was your week? What is one thing you're grateful for and one thing that challenged you?
- How did you GROW in obedience to Christ over the last week?
- Where did you GO to share the gospel or have a spiritual conversation with someone?

BUILD UP

- **REVIEW:**
 - Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23 and then have someone else in the group read it again, preferably from a different version.
 - What big takeaways did you have from the teaching?

- Additional Scripture:
 - Mark 2:5-7
 - 1 Peter 2:22
 - 1 John 3:5
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Luke 1:35
 - John 10:30
- **REFLECT:**
 - What does Immanuel mean and why is that title important?
 - What is the significance of the same language from Isaiah 7:14 being used in Matthew 1:23?
 - Why did Jesus have to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin?
 - Why did Jesus have to be fully God and fully man?
 - Could Jesus have sinned? Not did He sin but could He have sinned?
 - Why do we need substitutionary atonement to be saved?
- **RESPOND:**
 - How does understanding this bring comfort and peace?
 - How does this challenge what you thought about Jesus?
- **MEDITATE:**
 - Isaiah 7:14 - *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
- **MEMORIZE:**
 - John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

SEND OUT

- **GROW:** How will you abide in Christ this week and grow in your love and understanding of Him?
- **GO:** Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear this story or the gospel?
- **PRAYER:**
 - Pray over any request from your group members.
 - Discipleship & Mobilization Pastor - **Shawn Casto**
 - Ministry - **For the Nations**
 - **Pray for our long-term families on the field:**
 - The Wilsons
 - The Grays
 - The Starks
 - **Pray for our mid-term sent ones on the field:**
 - Kaesi
 - **Pray for the lost - Unreached People Group (UPG):** Bukharan Jewish in United States



-
- **Population in country:** 72,00
- **Global population:** 140,500
- **Christian Adherent:** 0.00%
- **Evangelical:** 0.00%
- **Primary Religion:** Ethnic Religions
- **Primary Language:** English
- **Summary:** Bukharic Jews were citizens of the USSR. With the break-up of the USSR, many left Russia for the United States. They settled in New York, Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles and San Diego -- centers of American Jewish community. They were so successful in blending into the American Jewish community that few Americans have ever heard of them. They have been in the United States long enough that they speak English. However, they are definitely a minority within American Judaism. None are known to be Messianic.
- **Prayer Focus:** Pray that Bukharic Jews would be open to witness by believers. Pray that Messianic Jews would reach out to them with the gospel. Pray these Jews would become interested in both the Old and New Testaments. Pray that the Gentile church would adopt the Bukharic-speaking Jews for prayer and outreach. Pray that God would establish Bukharic congregations.
- Want to keep up with other Unreached People Groups? Download the Unreached of the Day App <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>