

“Fear Not! There’s PEACE!!”

Matthew 1: 18-25; Philippians 4:6-9

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Longing for world, interpersonal, and personal peace
- Life sometimes throws us “curve balls” which rob our peace.
 - Matthew 1:18-19-- *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.”*
 - Jewish custom of “betrothal” and “marriage”
 - Mary seemingly breaks the “betrothal”
 - Luke 1:35-- *“the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*
 - Joseph’s three options
 - 1) Publicly disgrace her.
 - Deuteronomy 22:23-24-- *“If a young woman, who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor’s wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you.”*
 - 2) Privately divorce her.
 - 3) Marry her immediately.
 - Matthew 1:20-- *“But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’”*

“Fear Not! There’s PEACE !!”

A. Peace through COMMUNICATING with God!

1. Joseph needed to hear from God.
2. God communicates primarily with us through the dynamic of prayer.-- Philippians 4:6-7
 - Philippians 4:6-7— *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*
3. We can experience the incredible peace of God through prayer.
 - a. Because God truly cares for us—1 Peter 5:6-7
 - 1 Peter 5:6-7-- *“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares on Him, for He cares for you.”*
 - b. Because God answers our prayer.
 - Matthew 7:7-11-- *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receive, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?”*

B. Peace through CONTEMPLATING the TRUTH

- Philippians 4:8-- *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."*
1. What we think on determines our emotional and physical state.
 2. **God dispels Joseph's fears with THREE FACTS concerning the child.**
 - a. This child is **FATHERED** by the Spirit.
 - Matthew 1:20b-- *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."*
 - John 1:1-2, 14-- *"In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God; and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*
 - Philippians 2:6-7-- *"being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."*
 - Colossians 2:9-- *"For in Him (that is Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."*
 - Hebrews 1:3-- *"who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power."*
 - b. This child is the **FOUNTAINHEAD** of Salvation.
 - Matthew 1:21-- *"And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*
 - Psalm 3:8-- *"Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people."*
 - Psalm 37:39-40-- *"But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked and save them, because they trust in Him."*
 - Psalm 62:1-2-- *"Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved."*
 - Isaiah 12:2-- *"Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation."*
 - Acts 4:12-- *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
 - c. This child is the **FULFILLMENT** of Scripture.
 - Matthew 1:22-23-- *"So all this was one that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, 'Behold the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"*
 - Isaiah 7:14-- *"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel".*

C. Peace through OBEDIENCE to God's Commands

- Matthew 1:24-25-- *"Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus."*
- Philippians 4:9-- *"The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."*