

Matthew 1:18–25

We have entitled our study of Matthew “Beginning.”

1. As we saw last week, he began his gospel with the statement: the record of the genealogy “beginning” of the Messiah
2. His gospel is the record of the beginning of rule and reign of the Messiah.
3. The beginning of this new era of the kingdom of God on earth.

This morning we see an explosion of divine activity unfold before us as the greatest of beginnings in this beginning is announced.

READ/PRAY

There are 3 main things that I want us to notice in this narrative this morning.

### **I. The Prophecy Matthew Quotes v23**

*23 “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”*

There are massive number of Old Testament quotes found in Matthew’s gospel. This portion of his gospel is rooted in Isaiah 7. I want us to turn there and look at verses 10-14 so that we can get the context of the prophecy.

1. Ahaz, king of Judah, is afraid because Syria and Israel have joined together against him.
2. He decides that he will get an even more powerful kingdom to join with him to protect him against them, so he sends his request for help to Assyria.
  - a. Assyria is a massive middle eastern power in this time...that would eventually destroy Israel as we saw in our study of Habbakkuk.
  - b. Aha is going to enter into an agreement with them in an effort to protect Judah
3. And Isaiah is sent to him by God to tell him, “Do not do that Ahaz.”
4. You are putting far too much trust in men and not nearly enough trust in Your God.
5. God in great mercy, sends Isaiah to Ahaz with the following message...

#### Isaiah 7:10-14

*10 Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”*

Ahaz is invited to ask for any sign he can come up with that will strengthen his faith in God and His protection.

1. This is an amazing offer on God’s part. V11
2. God is writing Ahaz a blank check!
3. He can fill in any amount! The only limit is his imagination.

But look at his response.

1. *12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”*
2. This may be the church answer, but it is a bad answer.
3. Solomon had an opportunity a lot like this. He took it and God blessed Him. Ahaz misses it!
4. But God keeps pouring out grace and mercy.

13 Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

1. Maybe this is referring to a young maiden, not a true virgin
2. Maybe it is referring to a child that Isaiah's wife or daughter would give birth to.
3. Some say it is referring to the mother of Hezekiah.
3. There is no need to speculate or argue.

## II. The Interpretation Matthew Provides v22

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"All of this" took place to fulfill Isaiah 7:14. What is all of this?

*I Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:*

1. The birth of Jesus Christ...remember Christ is not Jesus' last name.
2. It is His title. The Messiah.
3. This Messiah that Matthew has just revealed to us in the genealogy of verses 1-17, the son of David, son of Abraham is about to be born.
4. The details are as follows.

*when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*

1. A betrothal was kind of like an engagement, but was much more binding.
2. To call off a betrothal would be equivalent to divorce...but we have a problem.
3. She was found...discovered, to be with child.
  - a. Of course by the Holy Spirit changes our judgment concerning Mary's chastity does it not? For us!
  - b. The virgin birth may be familiar to us, but it was absolutely unheard of for Joseph.
  - c. Put yourself in his shoes. How would you respond?

19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Joseph had 2 options

1. He could either go public and shame Mary or he could quietly divorce her.
2. In righteous compassion, he resolved to do the latter.
4. God in His grace intervened.

20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

1. God gives Joseph a vivid dream that changes everything.
2. Don't be afraid to take her. She is faithful. She is chaste. She is with child by the Holy Spirit!
3. The angel provides a gender reveal that nothing today can compare to: she will bear a son.
4. The angel even names the child Jesus, which means "Yahweh Saves."
5. And all of this happened to fulfill verse 23

### III. The Significance of it all

*24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

Why did Matthew go through so much trouble to make certain we knew that Mary was a virgin?

1. We have an initial statement in verse 18
2. We have a dream sent from God
3. We have a prophecy referenced
4. Then we have this last statement just to be certain we understand that Mary is indeed a virgin

Why is this such a big deal?

1. He wants everyone to know without a doubt that the child was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit. Why is this such a big deal?
2. Matthew wants us to have confidence that Jesus is the Son of God: God in human flesh.

*There are after all, other ways Jesus could have come into the world. On the one hand, if He has come without any human parent, then it would have been hard for us to imagine or believe that He could really identify with us. On the other hand, if He has come through two human parents—a biological mother and a biological father—then it would be hard to imagine how He could be fully God, since His origin would have been exactly the same as ours. But God, in His perfect wisdom and creative sovereignty, ordained a virgin birth to be the avenue through which Christ would come into the world. Grudem's Systematic Theology.*

Matthew wants us to have confidence that Jesus is the Son of God. Why is this such a big deal?

1. There are 2 sons of God in the Bible
  - a. The First Adam
    1. Luke 3:38 *the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*
    2. Romans 5:12-17 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*
      - a. Imputed sin...in Adam
      - b. Inherited sin...from Adam
      - c. Intentional sin...because we are sons of Adam
        1. We are not sinners because we sin
        2. We sin because we are sinners.
  - b. The Last Adam who is Jesus Christ
    1. Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.*
    2. In the virgin birth, Jesus bypassed Adam's imputed sin
    3. He did not inherit Adam's sinful nature
    4. And He was able to withstand every temptation of the evil one, offer a perfect sacrifice, and conquer death, hell and the grave

2. We are either in the first Adam or in the last Adam.

- a. We ALL have been born of dust in the first Adam.
- b. But we must be born again by the Spirit in order to live in the last Adam.
- c. John 3:1-7

1. Are you in Adam...or in Christ?

2. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

Are you in Adam or in Christ? This makes all the difference in the world!

1. Romans 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**.*

2. 1 Corinthians 1:30 *But by His doing you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption*

3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

4. Galatians 3:14 ***in Christ Jesus** the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

5. Philippians 1:1 *Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints **in Christ Jesus** who are in Philippi*

6. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead **in Christ** will rise first.*

### **Conclusion:**

Isaiah prophesied that THE virgin would be with child, have a son and they shall call his name Immanuel which translated means God with us.

1. This prophecy was fully fulfilled when Mary was found to be with child by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit
2. This child was fully human because he was born of woman, but he was fully divine because he was a direct result of a supernatural conception, not a natural conception
3. Because he was not the result of a natural conception, he was not a biological son of the first Adam through whom came sin and death.
4. He came to be the last Adam through whom would come cleansing from sin, spiritual life, and resurrection from the dead for all who are found in Him.
5. We would not only be found in Him...but He would be found dwelling with us: Immanuel, God with us.

Is He with You? Is He in You? Are You in Him?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?