

THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL

MATTHEW 1:18-25 // JORDAN COROS

DECEMBER 4, 2022

Jesus' coming changes everything for me, turning my world upside down (1:18-21), miraculously fulfilling God's promise (1:22-23), and compelling me to faithful obedience (1:24-25).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **It's hard to predict our reactions when important plans are affected by circumstances beyond our control.** How does Mary's unplanned pregnancy compare to the life disruption you've experienced as you follow God?

2. How have you reacted when your life has been turned upside down? Paying attention to our reactions to disruption helps us be better disciples. We can see evidence of our growing spiritual maturity. Have your reactions been consistent (or inconsistent) with Jesus' character?

*"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

3. ***God pre-empted Joseph and Mary's lives to by moving up the timeline on when they'd parents. As it turns out, Joseph's first child would be an adopted son. The whole move of God would be interpreted scandalously by all who did not believe God was involved in every detail. This miracle, even today, requires faith to accept. Is the miracle in this passage too big to be believed? Why can't we gloss over this part of the Gospel story?***

"There is no hint of pagan deity-human coupling in crassly physical terms. Instead, the power of the Lord, manifest in the Holy Spirit...miraculously brought about the conception." - D.A. Carson

4. What do we miss out on when we fail to grasp that Jesus is both God and human? According to Matthew 13:53-57, Jesus didn't do as much miraculous work among the people of his town because the people only saw him as an ordinary carpenter's son. What can we do to help people that want to normalize Jesus by reducing Jesus' divinity?

5. ***Mary and Joseph may never have chosen the life God gave them. As mentioned above, God's plan completely overturned their lives. In his sovereignty, God put them into the middle of his plan for redeeming the world and, in doing so, left a spotlight on their obedience for everyone to see. Mary and Joseph are now remembered in the church for their humble service to God. Their attitudes and actions challenge us to consider how our obedience to God looks to the church and the world.*** Do you respond to God immediately, or do you delay? Do you grumble about the heavy burden he's laid on you, or do you accept the honour of being trusted with weighty matters of his concern? Ultimately speaking, are you with God that you might serve his goals or that he might serve yours?