

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Virgin Birth

Speaker:

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Date:

December 11, 2022

Scriptures:

Matthew 1:18-25

Theme: Focus with wonder on the incarnation of the Son, for through Him salvation to sinners has come.

Introduction: What is Christmas really all about? For many, it's a special time of year filled with traditions and special moments. For some, it's a sad time marked by memories of departed loved ones or broken relationships. But for Christians, we know that this season is especially about the child of promise, and the blessings that he brought into the world. In his advent, tremendous good has been accomplished.

Matthew offers us 3 marvels in Jesus' incarnation:

1. Wonder at costly obedience

Both Mary and Joseph faced profoundly challenging circumstances related to Jesus' birth. Obedience to God would cost them dearly.

They were both sinners who needed a Savior, not somehow extraordinary. Yet they both chose to obey. They made clear that knowing and trusting the Lord was worth more than anything in the world.

2. Wonder at the great mystery

The great mystery of Jesus' birth is summarized in the word, *incarnation*. He is truly God and truly man.

The incarnation demonstrates the truth that only God can save. It also shows that we needed a new man, a last Adam, to redeem humanity.

The virgin birth shows us both that God saves and that Jesus is unlike other men. He was not born with a sin nature, even though he was truly human.

The mystery of the incarnation ought to drive us to wonder at the grace of God and to take comfort at his initiative in saving us.

3. Wonder at our Savior's names

The angel told Joseph to name his son, Jesus, which translates the Hebrew, Joshua—God saves. Jesus is God's salvation for his people.

He is also called Emanuel, or *God with us*. Both aspects are important: Jesus is *God*, truly divine. And he is *with us*, come to live and move among those who had rejected him, come to save.

We should therefore seek to focus our Christmas traditions on the Savior who came to save his people, so that we might wonder at his love and mercy.

Questions:

1. What cost are you paying for following Jesus? How can you grow in love and wonder for him?
2. Do you genuinely believe that obedience to God produces the great happiness?
3. Does your speech show reverence for God's name?