

The Gospel According to Matthew

(Immanuel) pt 2

Read Matt. 1:18-25

(Isa 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

What a mysterious thing, God in human flesh, God with us, that's what our text is all about, He who created all that is, manifesting Himself in human form! What a mystery, a thing unknown of any woman, to be with child without knowing a man! A thing we cannot explain, yet the people of God believe! How can one explain the mysteries of Godliness! Who can understand the depth of the Holy Spirit!

(Ecc 11:5) As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

(1Ti 3:16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

What a gracious thing for this truth to be revealed to a cold, spiritually dead soul!

Read Matt. 16:13-18

(Gal 4:4) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

This is what the first 17 verses was about “the fulness of time”, the appointed day, the day when the genealogy prophesied was fulfilled! God became flesh! this One we see in our text, came not with Adams nature, the nature of sin, for He came from the Holy Ghost! “for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost” (V20).

And to have a true understanding of Whom this is, we must be taught of God, flesh cannot speak to the heart; (Joh 6:44-45) **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**

You say, “*why John it’s no big deal, everyone knows this child as Jesus of Nazareth*” that may be true but they do not Know Him as their personal Savior, they do not Know Him in truth, They may know of Him, but they do not Know Him!

The God-Man, Holy, perfect, all powerful, all knowing, creator all that is, He created it, He created all that is by Himself, for Himself, and through Himself!

This is God’s graciousness to His people; “**Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven**”. (Matt.16:17). Folks if not for Christ Jesus, God in Human form, none could be saved!

Sin must be delt with, a price must be paid, Justice must be met, Flesh must die! For God to save His people, a people loved by Him from before the foundation of the world, His Justice must be met! Sin must be punished!

Read Hebrews 10:1-14

“A body hast thou prepared” a sacrifice, a kinsman Redeemer! He provided Himself a sacrifice for His people, for you and I, for a people out of every tongue, every tribe, through out time it’s self.

(Rev 13:8) And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

We will see here in our following studies, the whole earth bows to the One that created it!

We who believe that which is recorded here. We adore it. We rejoice in it. We proclaim it. And we sing about it. But, we will not try to prove it. How can we expect to understand and explain the virgin birth of Jesus Christ? It is enough for the believing heart to know that nothing is impossible with our God. It is enough for us to simply be informed that we may admire the wonderful works of our God. Like Moses of old, as he stood before the burning bush, when we read Matt. 1:18-25, we have entered upon holy ground. Let us put off the shoes of carnal curiosity and seek to hear what God the Lord will say. (Don Fortner)

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:18).

— God the Holy Spirit prepared in the womb of the virgin Mary a body for the Son of God (Heb 10:5).

His human nature was conceived in the womb of the chosen virgin by the Holy Spirit, without the aid of a man, (Luk 1:35) **And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**

There was no other way for the Christ to come into this world. He must be born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Had He been conceived by the seed of a fallen, sinful father, He could not have been a sinless substitute of sinners. *“He was born of a woman that he might be human; but not by man, that he might not be sinful”* (C.H. Spurgeon).

Our Lord Jesus was born of a virgin that He might be brought into this world as one **“made of a woman”** (Gal 4:4), but of an espoused, or lawfully betrothed virgin, so that He might both show the sanctity of marriage and protect the honor of His mother’s name. **“Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled”** (Heb 13:4).

Only those who teach the doctrine of devils prohibit men from marriage (1Ti 4:1-4) **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving.**

At the same time, the Lord took care to protect Mary’s name. Though He was born of a virgin, she was a married virgin. Mary’s Son was also her Savior and He took care to protect her reputation, justifying her pregnancy in the eyes of the world.

Matthew Henry suggests that three lessons are to be drawn from this verse.

Those in whom Christ is formed will show it; and it will be found to be a work of God, which He will own; look with me at (Col 1:27; Eph 2:8-10).

After great and high advancements, lest we be puffed up with them, we must expect something or other to humble us, some reproach, as a thorn in the flesh.

Those who take care to keep a good conscience may cheerfully trust God with the keeping of their good names, and have reason to hope that He will clear up, not only their integrity, but their honor, as the sun at noon day.

Can you imagine what a problem Mary's pregnancy presented to Joseph. Here he was engaged to a woman who showed up pregnant; and he knew with certainty that he was not the father of her child. What will he do?

“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily”
(Matt. 1:19).

Consider this wonderful example God has given you and I when we face those who may sin against us! Joseph's behavior exemplifies godliness, wisdom, and compassion. He saw in Mary what appeared to be a horribly evil thing. But he did not behave rashly. He patiently weighed his options as a man who sought to glorify God and do His will in all things.

According to the law he could do any of three things: (1.) He could privately give her a bill of divorcement before two or three witnesses (Deu 24:1). (2.) He could make a public example of her and have her stoned to death (Deu_22:23-24). Or (3.) He could go ahead with his plans and marry her.

We see clearly, Joseph weighed the matter carefully with prayer before the Lord. **“Being a just man,”** a man who sought always to do what was right, Joseph chose not to expose what he thought to be sin in his espoused wife. Though he felt he could not marry her, he chose to put her away quietly.

C.H. Spurgeon wrote, *“When we have to do a severe thing, let us choose the tenderest manner. Maybe we shall not have to do it at all.”*

What an example Joseph is to us in his behavior. Having been forgiven, he was willing to forgive. Having reason to suspect the worst of Mary, his love for her compelled him to cover and refuse to expose what he thought to be sin in her.

As Shem and Japheth covered their father's sin, Joseph was determined to cover that which he thought was Mary's sin. May God give you and I, the grace to behave like Joseph in our dealings with others, especially in our dealings with His people.

In all things be as lenient as possible with others. Always be ready to forgive the faults of others (Matt, 6:14) **For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you**, and seek what is best for the fallen, erring brother or sister.

No matter the fault, seek restoration, not retribution, read (Gal 6:1-12).

In all things show love and grace, not judgment and condemnation. Is that not what God has shown towards you and I!

Folks what a wonderful Gracious God we serve! He humbled Himself, He left His Glory for a moment, (Joh 17:5) **And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

Heaven came down, it never ceases to amaze me, that all God requires of me, He has provided in His Son Christ Jesus! (Eph 1:3-4) **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him.**

(Heb 10:14) **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

To God be the Glory, great things He hath done!