

Personal Study

"THE COMING KING"
PART 2



The Coming King

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Introduction:

Have you noticed that when you hear a familiar story repeatedly....it seems to lose its luster?

The same can quickly be true with the Bible (if we allow it). The stories that we hear year after year can become familiar, mundane, and white noise.

As we look to the Christmas story, we can easily fall into this trap. We say things to ourselves such as "I know this story", "I've heard this before", or we fail to really engage at all.

Today we are continuing the Christmas story by looking at a familiar passage found in Matthew 1:18-21. My encouragement to all of us is to take a moment and pray that the Holy Spirit stirs in us a deep affection for Christ and His word (even the familiar parts). It is our hope that the familiar become stories that lead us into deep awe, wonder, and ultimately worship of Jesus Christ.

-Pray

-Read Matthew 1:18-21

1. Jesus' "messy" announcement:

In this text we see a few important items to consider, study, and ultimately rejoice in. The first of which, is that Jesus' announcement and arrival was certainly not "clean cut". In fact, it was quite messy, counter cultural, and humiliating for Him, and both Mary and Joseph.

For example, let's begin in verse 18 as we see the description of Mary being with child, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

While we marvel at the very idea of immaculate conception, we cannot overlook the cultural and legal risks that this puts in front of Mary and Joseph. They are both at risk for public humiliation. Mary is carrying a child that is not Joseph's. Joseph feels compelled to uphold the law and divorce Mary but do so in secret as to not humiliate Mary any further.

Jesus' announcement and arrival is messy, risky, and of course uncomfortable in every way.

2. God re-directs & re-assures:

As we keep reading, we see the Lord intervene in an incredible way. Just as Joseph settles in his heart to quietly divorce Mary and not go through with the marriage, an angel of the Lord

appears and gives a “re-direction” (fear not!) and re-assurance (you will have a son named Jesus).

After the encounter with the angel, and a clear word from the Lord, Mary and Joseph go through with their marriage and of course birth of Jesus Christ.

A clear application that we can draw from this text, is that when the Lord Jesus gives direction, He will be there to give assurance of His faithful, steadfast love and grace to us (even when it may not make any sense).

3. Jesus – The Salvation of the World:

Lastly, we see that after Joseph and Mary have been re-directed and re-assured by God, we see the reason why Jesus is coming to earth...to be the way of salvation for all people.

The story of Jesus is not a cute children’s story (although most often Children “get it” faster than us adults). The story of Christmas is not just a post card that we send once a year. The story of Christmas is the story of God – the creator, sustainer, and giver of life, stepping into our sinful world in order to provide a way back to Himself.

The story of Christmas is ultimately the story of the Gospel. Jesus came to earth. Fully God and fully man. He lived the life that we could not live and died the death that everyone deserves. On His back He took the wrath of God on behalf of the entire world. Gods’ wrath was justified in Christ Jesus. He died. He was buried. Three days later He was raised to life and rules and reigns at the right hand of the Father, forever!

It’s a familiar story, but its eternally powerful. Its able to give dead things new life and restore broken lives and legacies.

Prayer and Reflection:

-Take a few moments to re-read todays passage and pray / reflect on these three simple truths.

-Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you.