



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The Birth of the King

Matthew 1:18-25

Message #2 of 80 – S1032

Sermon given on January 22, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Birth of the King

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Opening Comments

- Good morning. Welcome to everyone who is here in person and to those online. We will be partaking of Communion at the end of the service. If you would like to join us, grab a cracker and some juice.
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The King and His Kingdom**
- Maybe there is something wrong with me but there is something I have never understood.
- Why do we, as Americans, care so much about what is going on in Great Britain's royal family.
- Even some of the conservative news programs I listen to are reporting on the drama going on the 'Royal Family'.
- Recently, a tell-all book was published by a former prince telling all his families dirty little secrets.
- Can you guess what my response is – who cares?
- And then if there is a wedding in the Royal Family, it is like the whole world stops and watches – everyone except me, I guess.
- And then we get daily updates about pregnancies and births.
- I don't get it. Please don't come up after the service to explain it to me – I don't care what is going on in the Royal Family of Great Britain!
- Today we are going to talk about a royal family that I do care about.
- There was no grand wedding attended by all the world's elites.
- There is even a scandal about the conception of the Child.
- But this was no ordinary child, even before He was born, He was King.
- Let's pray and then look at this fascinating account. **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Birth of the King**
- Last week we looked at the genealogy of Jesus.

- Though Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, he was married to Jesus' mother.
 - Joseph was of the royal family of King David
 - Israel did not have a king at this time, but if they did, Joseph would have been in line for the throne, though there were probably thousands of men in line in front of him.
 - Mary, the mother of Christ, was also descended from King David
 - This royal family was about as humble as you can imagine, hardly what we might envision as the family who would bring in the King of the World.
 - Let's look at the birth of this King.
 - **Matthew 1:18**
 - Betrothal for the Jews was like being married.
 - Ending a betrothal was like getting a divorce.
 - 'before they came together' = before they had been intimate
 - One of the doctrines of the church is that Mary was a virgin until after the birth of Christ.
 - 'she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.' – the immaculate conception
 - The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she was going to have a special baby **Luke 1:34-35**
- Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"**
³⁵**And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."**
- Even though she didn't understand, she had the faith to agree and yield herself to God's will.
 - That is real faith – God said it – I believe it – So be it!
 - Matthew's gospel gives us a picture of the character of Mary's husband.
 - **Matthew 1:19**
 - Notice, it refers to Joseph as Mary's husband.
 - 'being a just man' – Joseph knew what was right and wrong.
 - From his perspective, this situation was wrong.

- He was Mary's husband, but their marriage had not been consummated.
- She was pregnant and he knew the child was not his.
- This was a cultural dilemma for Joseph – the whole family would be shamed and ostracized if this came out.
- Not only that, but the penalty for adultery was also death by stoning.
- Marriages were often arranged by the family.
- There is nothing in the Bible that says Joseph loved Mary, but his actions seem to suggest that he does.
- 'put her away secretly' = send her away, end the marriage
- But he intended to do it secretly so as to not humiliate her any more than necessary.
- **Matthew 1:20**
- Though he is not named here, this is probably Gabriel who is named repeatedly in Luke's accounting of Christ's birth.
- The angel confirms the story Joseph had probably heard from Mary.
- He was a man of faith, but the idea of Mary getting pregnant by the Holy Spirit was one step further than his faith could carry him.
- So, God sent an angel to carry Joseph to greater faith.
- The angel then tells Joseph about how special this child will be.
- **Matthew 1:21**
- Joseph is told that Mary will have a Son, and what to name Him
- 'Jesus' means 'He saves'.
- We are even told why the King was born into the world – not to rule.
- Jesus didn't need to be born to be the King of the World.
- But to be the Savior of the world, He had to be born as a human, so that He could lay down that human life as a sacrifice for our sins.
- This is how God proved that He loved the world **Romans 5:8**
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- That couldn't have happened if Jesus hadn't been born.
- And then one of the regular occurrences in Matthew's gospel
- **Matthew 1:22-23**
- Remember, Matthew is writing to Jews.

- As Christians, when we think of the Bible, we are thinking of Genesis to Revelation.
- When a Jew thinks of the Scriptures, they are thinking about Genesis to Malachi.
- ‘that it might be fulfilled’ - Matthew is quoting from the prophet Isaiah (7:14) who wrote this 700 years before Christ was born.
- Matthew’s goal is to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.
- One of the things that helped me to believe was the unity of the Bible.
- As a young man I was led to believe that the Bible couldn’t be trusted because it was written by men.
- But then, reading it, things written hundreds and even thousands of years apart lined up exactly.
- If AI had been around at the time of Christ, I might believe that was possible to do, but not with the technology of the times.
- It is nothing less than miraculous, just like the Bible says **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- ‘by inspiration of God’ = literally ‘God-breathed’
- God’s Word is radical!
- ‘call His name Immanuel’ – ‘God with us.’
- One of the doctrines of the church is the Omnipresence of God
- It describes one of God’s inherent characteristics.
- God is everywhere present at all times.
- There is never a time when God is not present everywhere in the universe all at the same time.
- So, what does it mean that Jesus’ name means “God with us”
- It is referring to another doctrine of the church – the Incarnation
- The incarnation describes the fact that God the Son, who existed with the Father in heaven from eternity past, left the perfection of heaven and took on human flesh so that He could dwell among us and save us from our sins. **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- This encounter with the angel in a dream impacted Joseph greatly.

- **Matthew 1:24-25**
- He went from being suspicious of Mary's strange explanation to fully committing himself to work caring for this Child that was not his own.
- Joseph was a man of character and integrity.
- It is impossible to say how much Joseph understood about who this Child he was raising was.
- It does not seem that he was alive when Jesus began His public ministry.
- He likely didn't see the fulfillment of what God would do through the life of Jesus.
- We are going to partake of Communion this morning.
- Communion is a time to remember what Jesus did for us.
- We talked about the account of the birth of our Savior-King this morning.
- We also talked about the faith of Joseph.
- He heard the angel's message and believed.
- That faith empowered Joseph to do what might have been impossible for him before.
- As we prepare to partake of the Lord's Table, let us examine ourselves.
- Joseph didn't know he had a faith problem until the angel told him he did.
- The same might be true for us as well.
- Ask God to reveal to you if there is anything He is calling you to a deeper faith about.
- And be willing to yield your will to His.
- Jesus was born so that He could save us by sacrificing His life for ours.
- That's what Communion is all about.
- So, I am going to pray, and then Randy will come up to lead us, let God speak to your heart. - **Pray**