

When God Goes Out the Door

December 16, 2007

Matt 1:18-25

Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

No matter which gospel account you read, at Christmas we celebrate a unique event: God became human to save us. God's feet went out the door. Each gospel writer sheds light on aspects of this unique event. Today we look at Matthew.

Matthew's gospel says,

1. Because the Holy Spirit says yes, God is human
Son of God
2. Because Mary says yes, a human is God
Son of Man
3. Because Joseph says yes, God-become-a-human is savior
Son of David

In Matthew's estimation, everything depends upon Joseph, a human like you and me. This is still true. Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of Man, and the Son of David. But is he your savior? It all depends upon your decision.

I.

If I had only Matthew, I would learn _____

Matt 1:19 "Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man"

POINT: The relationship starts when you make a decision

Gospels: Different light on Jesus

READ 1:1, 17

Matthew: What would I learn?

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| -genealogy | = | Abraham (Gentile) David (Jew)
Odd women-Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bath
Trouble (Babylon)
Jesus has no Daddy yet (1:16) |
| -Mean king (2) | = | Moses, Egypt |
| -Magi (2) | = | Gentiles again (East-Numbers story) |
| -Scripture | = | teaching texts (Isaiah 7) |
| -Joseph | = | dreams, Egypt, journey/exodus, decisions |

*Matt = Jewish/Gentile community in Syria, likes teaching from Bible, sees Jesus as Israel's Messiah in midst of conflict; decisions are important

What's not here?

- Genealogy back to creation (Luke)
- Shepherds (Luke)
- Mary, Mary, Mary (Luke)
- No Word become flesh (John)

What is here?

- *Everything depends upon Joseph
What are you going to do Joseph?
- Holy Spirit starts process = God's Son
 - Mary accepts the process = Son of Man

READ 1:16 Jesus has no Father

- Messiah is David's son
 - Joseph is David's son
 - Jesus is no one's son
- *to be Messiah of Israel, thus Lord of World, he must be David's son
(God isn't his Daddy!)

What are you going to do, Joseph? Make a decision

- *What are you going to do? Make a decision
- not church attendance
 - not trust in God
 - trust in Jesus

II.

What's His Name?

Matt 1:21 "She will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus"

POINT: Jesus is with-us-God who saves

Naming the baby:

- Baby bassinet: Name, Girl _____
- My name: Jefferson Harrell McCrory Jr.

Jesus has two names:

1. Jesus: What Jesus does

READ angel command: 1:20-21

Jesus = *Yeshua* = Joshua = Isaiah (Yah saves) = saves

Play on words

Notice: “Joseph, Son of David”

Messiah was to be *David’s* son

Notice: “*People* from their *sins*”

Ps 130 “Israel” Major mss “world”

Messiah was to save Israel from Romans

*deliberate Messiah

<i>people (world)</i>	not Israel alone
<i>sins</i>	not Romans

*This is about you and me, and the real problem behind Rome, and behind Israel, behind every human being

*What’s eating your lunch this Christmas?

2. Emmanuel: Who Jesus is

READ 1:22-23

-Isaiah 7 story

Ahaz 8th century

Syria and Israel against the young king

“If you don’t trust, you won’t be trusted”

*Make a decision!

-refuses, so he gets a sign = I’ll show up

imanu-el = The with-us God

*Christianity is distinct but Jewish (OT quote)

-Judaism = occasionally God shows up

-Islam = God never shows up, no flesh

-Hindu = God is you (can’t show up)

*in Jesus, God

Shows up permanently (Judaism)

Shows up in flesh (Islam)

Is not us (Hindu)

*If you want to meet God, meet Jesus—start here

III.

Make a Decision, Joseph

Matt 1:24 “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel commanded”

POINT: You can change life by deciding about Jesus

Joseph story: What do we know?

READ 1:18-19

- righteous man = Torah guy = Bible guy
- gracious man = Like God = loving guy
- *going to do the right and gracious thing

*Is there something in your life right now, where the right and gracious thing may not be fully God’s will?

*Life is not a Bible formula, there’s more.

READ 1:20

- had dreams (like Joseph of Genesis)
- listened to the Holy Spirit
- *Joseph prayed and listened

*Read, pray, and listen

What are you going to do, Joseph? Make a decision

- risky
- vulnerable
- confusing
- but God’s thing = how God’s feet went out the door to us
- *Joseph decided; it changed the world

What are you going to do? Make a decision

- risky
- vulnerable
- confusing
- God’s thing = how God’s feet go out the door to

*make a decision; it will change your world and the world