

God with us

## Introduction

Today I want to look at the name of Jesus given in Matthew 1:23

## Funny Names

- Names (especially biblical names can be significant
- Sometimes names are inadvertently (or maybe intentionally) funny
- Consider Cardinal Sin
- Or the daughter of the Lear family (think Lear Jet) - Shanda Lear
- Or the surgeon Dr. De'ath
- Or the head of the freedom from hunger campaign Mr. Fatty

## Immanuel: a name of God

- Immanuel is one of the names given to Jesus
- Names are significant - especially in the OT
- They are used to give insight into the person or their attributes
- See previous Wednesday into the compound names of God
- See **Psa 9:10 (ESV)** (10) *And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.*
- In our text today, the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph
- **Matt 1:23** *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*
- I want to look at the importance of that name

## Message

### Immanuel: What's in a name

## **The Prophecy**

- The name Immanuel first appears in **Isa 7:14 (ESV)** (14) *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
- Some 700 years before Jesus is born - the one called Immanuel is born

## **The problem**

### ***Sin caused a separation***

- It appears that prior to the fall it was God's habit to spend time with man
- See **Gen 3:8 (ESV)** (8) *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*
- We were created for fellowship with God - His presence is what we need
- Looking at the second part of the verse - we hid from the Lord
- See **Isa 59:2 (ESV)** (2) *but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

### ***Unable to come to Him***

- Religion is man's attempt to come to God
- We are unable to do so
- Impossible - no matter by what means - for us to come to God!

## **The provision**

### ***He came to us as a baby***

- See the name the angel gave when he spoke to Joseph
- **Matt 1:18-25 (ESV)** (18) *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (19) And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. (20) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). (24) When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, (25)*

*but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

- **Point:** Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy given through Isaiah 700+ years earlier

### ***With His Spirit***

- Jesus lived, but was crucified on the cross
- We believe he rose from the dead and ascended to be with the Father
- Before this took place - he made another promise **John 14:16 (ESV)** (16) *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
- **Point:** Finds its ultimate fulfillment in His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) living with/in us

### **Immanuel: The implications of that name**

#### **We can be reconciled through Him**

- Separated by sin - that was the problem
- Unable to come to God through religion - or anything we can do on our own
- He came to us - our Immanuel - and died in our place
- Reconciled through the birth/life/death/resurrection of Jesus
- **Col 1:19-22 (ESV)** (19) *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (21) And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, (22) he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*
- We were alienated from God - yet created for God and His presence
- Jesus came to reconcile us back to God - that we might enjoy His presence forever
- **Point:** God with us - means we are able to come back to him forever

#### **We are not alone**

- We are never alone
- See **Matt 28:20 (ESV)** (20) *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
- Consider **Heb 13:5 (ESV)** (5) *Keep your life free from love of money, and be*

*content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

- Even when things are bad **Rom 8:31-32 (ESV)** (31) *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (32) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*
- See **Rom 8:35-39 (ESV)** (35) *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." (37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **We need never fear**

- That name means we need not be afraid
- Consider **Luke 8:23-25 (ESV)** (23) *and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. (24) And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. (25) He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"*
- No need to worry if Jesus is in our boat!
- See the 3 Hebrew children in the furnace!
- Let's look at the root cause of fear
- **1 John 4:18 (ESV)** (18) *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*
- We fear because we know we deserve God's wrath - and every situation of danger or uncertainty our hearts go back to that core recognition
- But because of Immanuel - we are reconciled to God and need not fear

## **Application/Closing**

**Immanuel: Living in light of that name**

### **Make time for His presence**

- First and foremost: cultivate a relationship with the one who is there
- Spend time with / make time for Him
- Let us draw near through the blood!

### **Don't be discouraged or afraid by your circumstances**

- Enemy tries to discourage and dishearten
- Points at the impossible things we're facing
- Makes us feel like God has forgotten us
- **Isa 43:1-2 (ESV)** *(1) But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. (2) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*
- Immanuel means I have nothing to fear! God is with me. God is for me!

### **Get busy doing His work**

- Able to do what he's called us to do
- No matter how weak we are
- See the context of Jesus' statement "I am with you always" - isn't that connected to what we are doing with the great commission
- No matter how impossible the circumstances
- Consider these OT examples: Joshua, people under Haggai's preaching

### **Joshua**

- See Moses' death
- Transition of leadership to Joshua
- Rebellious people
- Overwhelming odds
- **Josh 1:1-9 (ESV)** *(1) After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, (2) "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. (3) Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. (5) No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave*

*you or forsake you. (6) Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. (7) Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. (8) This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (9) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

### **Haggai**

- See the impossible circumstance faced
- **Hag 2:4-7 (ESV)** *(4) Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, (5) according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. (6) For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. (7) And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.*