



Wednesday, November 17th- 6:30 pm

Sing We Now of Christmas

Week 2- Hail the Incarnate Deity

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:26-28; John 1:14

Where do I experience God's revelation in human form?

1. Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing

* "Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel."

-The birth narrative of Matthew 1:22-23 links Jesus to the prophecy from Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14.

- "Immanuel" (meaning God is with us) was a throne name for a king which meant the living presence of God with God's people.

-Matthew 1:22-23 connects the birth and ascension of Christ in Matthew 28:30: "I am with you always."

*Isaiah's prophecy brings hope and warning.

-In the midst of political uncertainty, Isaiah points to the birth of new life; offering hope amid political unrest.

*Matthew and Luke are the only two gospels with birth narratives.

*John's gospel describes what the first disciples and believers came to understand and know, not the historical account of what they saw and heard.

2. What God Did

*The stories from the Scriptures remind us of the up close and personal nature of Christian faith- God chose to become human.

*When God sent Jesus into the world, he gave us a picture of himself.

*Why did God choose something humble and so human to offer revelation?

*Two implications for why God did what God did:

1. We can know something important about the character of God.

-When we ask, "What is God like?" The answer is: Jesus.

2. We need to focus our faith and actions on Jesus.

-The better we understand Jesus, the better we understand God.

Resource: Granger, Franklin and Judson Edwards, *Sing We Now of Christmas*
(Macon, Georgia: NextSunday Resources, 2015)

3. What Jesus Did

- * Everyone expected Jesus to be a powerful political and militaristic Messiah.
- *Instead, Jesus focused on people who were also not considered mighty or powerful.
 - Jesus alienated the powerful who could help him most in a military campaign, and instead loved the people who could do nothing to help him.
- *Jesus wasn't focused on crowds of people and political kingdoms.
 - Instead, he focused on individual people and a spiritual kingdom by loving others one at a time.

4. What We Are Called to Do

- *Even 2,000 years later, Jesus' message and method still seems strange, inefficient, and ineffective.
- * Even though at first, the disciples "didn't get it," eventually they did.
 - Biblical writers like Peter, John, and even James and Paul show us that they finally understood Jesus' method and embraced it for the early church.
- *John elucidates three characteristics of Jesus' way of loving individual people:
 1. Love sees people and pays attention to them and their needs.
 2. Love moves us to feel and respond to those in need.
 3. Love acts. For John, we are to love, not in word and speech, but in truth and action.

Second stanza of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing:

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with med to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel.

"Immanuel has come- not only to save us from our sins, but also to show us how we are supposed to live and love." -Judson Edwards

Upcoming Wednesday Night Schedule:

- 11/24- No Wednesday Night Dinner for Thanksgiving
- 12/1 and 12/15- Bible Study and Regular Schedule
- 12/8- Ministry Matters Meeting
- 1/12/22- Resume Wednesday Night Bible Studies and Schedule