

Sermon Reflections

Hope in a Promised Son (Matthew 1:18-25)

Summary: Hope in King Jesus to save you from your sin, only as God can, and just as God promised. Direct your longings and hope to Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Open Discussion: Why do our hopes keep failing or why are there so many disappointments in the world? Sin undercuts all reason for hope.

1. Hope Veiled in a Mystery with Shame (vv. 18-19)

- Have there been times when hope has been hard to find? Why?
- How was Joseph merciful in wanting to send Mary away secretly? What information did Joseph not have? The good news of Jesus Christ has a veiled glory to it.
- Review 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. In light of Mary being a virgin and pregnant (this seems made up or ridiculous to the world), how can you be encouraged and your faith increased in light of this passage?
- Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. See in Jesus the incredible hope we have that came about through this virgin birth.

2. Hope Revealed in a Son who Saves (vv. 20-21)

- A messenger, an angel, interceded in Joseph's plans via a dream. How does the angel address Joseph? Why is this significant? What did the angel tell Joseph?
- Why should Joseph not be afraid in accepting Mary?
- What was the purpose of this virgin birth according to the text?
- The word, "saved": think through the significance of this word used here. Throughout Matthew, the word "saved" means to be rescued from great peril. Saved from what? Consider Romans 6:23.
- This baby, this Son, will save each one that looks to Him. But how? See Matthew 26:28.

3. Hope Fulfilled by a God who Comes (vv. 22-25)

- The hope we have in Jesus rests on who He is: God coming to us in flesh.
- Review again verses 20 and 21. Then look at Isaiah's quote from verse 23. How do these verses complement each other? What are the similarities of these passages? 1) _____ 2) _____ a son 3) a description of His name. These two quotes explain how this works (i.e. how can a virgin become pregnant?).
- What does it mean, "God with us"? Is this promised boy a sign that God is "on our side," or is the child Himself actually God literally being here?
- Review Isaiah 9:6. How is this a proof text that Jesus is God and is here?
- Review Mark 2:10ff. How is this a proof text that Jesus is God?
- Summary: If you compare the name given in verse 21 and the name given in verse 23 you can see how one explains the other. He must be "Immanuel," if He has any possibility to save from sin.
- It is all about Him. Resign your attempts to find hope in you, your reputation, your accomplishments, or anything that depends upon you. Our hope is only found in Him and not in ourselves.