



God With Us - Week Four

"What's In A Name?"

Matthew 1:18-25

The story of Joseph teaches us the meaning of grace.

It's the season of Advent - a time of expectation

Advent helps us prepare our hearts for the coming Christ and a new world.

Jesus' arrival is both a now and a not yet—how do we live in this tension?

Today we are going to spend some time hearing about the announcement of Jesus' birth from the perspective of Joseph.

THE STORY OF JOSEPH TEACHES US THE MEANING OF GRACE

Matthew 1:18-25

- *Matthew's Gospel uses an interesting word for "birth" (genesis).*
- *The dispute over Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew's choice of words.*
- *Joseph chose to spare Mary the shame of adultery.*
- *He names the child Jesus, which was a sign of his adoption.*
- *The concept of sin (hamartia) and what it means in this text.*

We often overlook Joseph in the story of the Nativity and as a presence in Jesus' life. But he teaches us something beautiful.

Sometimes we are given opportunities to show grace and love in the most difficult circumstances. How we respond shows how we truly feel about God's grace, mercy and love.

Some Important Questions

1. *Where in our lives do we need to be showing grace and mercy right now?*
2. *What would it look like if we learned to trust God's purposes for us?*
3. *How do we embody Joseph's story as a community of faith?*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Honest Advent

Scott Erickson

Watch For The Light

Various Authors

Advent And Christmas Wisdom

Henri Nouwen

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