

Emmanuel: God With Us

Matthew 1:18–25

Introduction

Sometimes the greatest heroes of Scripture never step into the spotlight.

They simply **trust, obey, and disappear quietly back into ordinary life**—but heaven never forgets their obedience.

“Joseph... Mary is with child.”

And in Joseph’s response we learn something life-shaping about faith—and about Emmanuel, **“God with us.”**

Emmanuel — God With Us

Matthew pauses to explain the meaning of all this miracle and mystery. He reaches back to Isaiah 7:14:

*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and they shall call His name **Immanuel**—
which is translated, **God with us.**”*

God stepping into our world.
God becoming one of us—without ceasing to be God.

Why did He have to come?

- To live where we live
- To feel what we feel
- To be tempted yet without sin
- To fulfill the law completely
- To die as the spotless substitute for sinners
- To rise so He might live *with us* and *in us*

The ultimate goal of Jesus coming was for God to be with us

1. Only God Could Make This Possible – So Believe Him

Matthew emphasizes the miracle:

“That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” Salvation is not human achievement. It is divine initiative. If we could rescue ourselves by moral improvement, Jesus would never have come. But we cannot:

Believe Him.

Stop trusting your goodness. Trust His grace.

2. Only the Son Could Be the Savior – So Praise Him

The angel gives Jesus His name:

“You shall call His name **Jesus**,
for He will save His people from their sins.”

Jesus means “**God saves.**”

He came for something far deeper:

“to save His people from their sins.”

Sin is a word our culture avoids—but the Bible doesn’t. If we deny sin, we deny our need of a Savior. But when we confess sin, we discover a Savior who came all the way from heaven to rescue us. So what do we do?

Praise Him.

- Praise Him publicly when opportunity opens.
- Praise Him privately, alone with God.
- Praise Him in prayer not just by asking—but by adoring.

*Application: Spend ten minutes praying—and ask God for nothing.
Just tell Him what you love about Him.*

3. Only the Savior Could Bring us to God – so enjoy Him

Because Jesus came:

- You are not abandoned.

- You are not unseen.
- You are not walking alone.

So enjoy Him.

When hurts come—remember His healing.
When pain rises—remember His purposes.
When life confuses you—rest in His control.
When your limitations shout—cling to His strength.
When sin accuses you—trust His salvation.

Conclusion

Joseph disappears from the biblical record after Jesus' childhood. But on the pages of Scripture stands this legacy:

He sacrificed for God. He believed God. He obeyed God.
May the same be said of us.

Because **God is with us.**

Discussion Questions

1. **Where do you most identify with Joseph—confusion, fear of people's opinions, or costly obedience?**
2. **What does "God with us" practically mean for a situation you are facing right now?**
3. **How does understanding that salvation is fully God's work change the way you think about "being good enough"?**
4. **Where is God calling you from simple belief into obedient action—like Joseph?**
5. **What would it look like for you to intentionally "enjoy God" this week rather than simply work for Him?**