

# *Immanuel - God With Us*

## *Matthew 1:23*

### God With Us

- God created us because He wanted us. The purpose of the existence of mankind is personal relationship with God. That is why we do not have true peace and fulfillment without that love relationship.
- We chose ourselves and left our First Love. Sin entered the world and created a chasm we could never fix. Sin settled in the world and we were forever separated from God - the Lover of our souls.
- God created a covenant based on the blood of animals to pay for the penalty of our sins, but it could not satisfy our overwhelming debt.
- So God decided to become one of us - a man - Jesus - so that we could see His love for us. So we could understand who He is and how wonderfully He pursues us - even to the point of death.
- The angel could of announced, “God over us,” “God judges us,” “God’s bigger than us,” “God’s wiser than us,” or “God condemns us.”
- God would have been completely right and just with all of those announcements; but He chose “GOD WITH US!”
- How amazing is our God?!?! How incredible is His great love for us?!?! How relentless is His pursuit of us?!?!
- “Oh Father, thank You for being with us! Thank you for sending Jesus - our Savior and Deliverer! Please show us what that means today, and how it can revive our hearts and our world.”

### 1. Jesus “God With Us” in Hardship

- Let’s read Hebrews 12:1-3 together please.
- “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33
- The words “take heart” come from a Greek word that literally means, “have courage and be of good cheer and comfort.” (Strong’s Concordance)

- How can we possibly have courage, joy and comfort in the most difficult and heart-breaking moments of our lives?!
- Because Jesus has already been there! He has overcome it and now He is standing with us in our current hardship. He offers us strength, peace and companionship in the midst of our difficulty.
- Will you choose Jesus' company in your present hardship? Will you take His hand and let Him lead you with peace and authority.

## 2. Jesus "God With Us" in Temptation

- Let's read Hebrews 4:14-16 together please.
- "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Satan loves to use an isolation tactic to overwhelm and separate us from God and each other. But Jesus went into and through every temptation before us. He is with us! He has already provided a way out and offers us the mercy we need to take it!
- Would you receive the fact that God is with you even in your worst moments of temptation? He has not abandoned you. Take hold of Him and let Him guide you into victory and purity.

## 3. Jesus "God With Us" in Hard Obedience

- Let's read Hebrews 5:7-9 together please.
- "'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.' An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. *And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly,* and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground." Luke 22:42-43
- Did you know that Jesus bled for us twice? Once for the payment of our sin on the cross. But also in the garden to demonstrate difficult obedience.

- When God asked you to do something difficult or to believe in what is humanly impossible; when the task seems overwhelming and obedience is extremely difficult - God is with us! Jesus has been there and is currently with us to guide us through it for our good and God's glory.
- In what area has God demanded your hard obedience? Will you cry out to Jesus? He cried out for you, and He's there to help.

### Response: God is With Us, Are You With Him?

- God had every right to reject us and abandon us, but He didn't.
- He went through great effort and hardship to be with us and to love us.
- He is totally committed to His relationship with us, are we committed to Him?
- God chose to be with us. Will you choose to be with Him?
- Will you surrender and receive His great love?
- Will you receive His forgiveness through Jesus' blood and make a covenant to be with Him forever - no matter what?
- If you have a love relationship with God but you've left your first love; will you return to Him today? He is waiting to run to you and embrace you.

### Response: Will You be an "Immanuel" to Your World

- Just as God chose to be with us through Jesus; this world needs to know that God is with them through Jesus in us.
- Unfortunately, the church has become unnecessary and ineffective to much of our culture today.
- Many of the people that you interact with will not choose to attend a worship service and hear the gospel.
- So what about them? They need you to be "God with us" at work, sports, community events, and in your home.
- The world needs revival and it won't come through them coming to the church. It will come through you being the church to them.