



SERMON NOTES

SENT

DELIVERING
THE GIFT OF HOPE
AT CHRISTMAS

Week 3 (December 13): “Jesus is God With Us”
Matthew 1:20-23, Hebrews 1:1-3

I. The First Emmanuel

- A. The kings of Aram and Israel decided to join forces and wage war on the kingdom of _____.
- B. The _____ referenced in Isaiah 7 will be a sign to the people of Judah that God is with them.
- C. The early Christians saw the Old Testament prophecies as a _____ of what God was doing in Jesus.

II. A Holy Mystery

- A. Christians believe that God became a _____.
- B. The _____ is a way of trying to explain the miracle we see in scripture.

III. Emmanuel – What it Means for Us

- A. God coming in human flesh has three implications for us:
 - i. God knows and _____ us because He has walked in your shoes.
 - ii. We have a clear _____ of God.
 - iii. We know that _____ is with us.
- B. We are sent to be God’s _____ to other people.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

One of the unique things Christians believe is that God became one of us. And every December we celebrate this event. But what are the implications for us that God became one of us?

Monday: Isaiah 7:5-16, Matthew 1:22-23

Kings were plotting to attack Israel, and King Ahaz was frightened. The prophet Isaiah gave him a sign of hope that a young woman would give birth to a son. Matthew said Mary's son completed Isaiah's prophecy by being God's presence for all people. Have you ever felt that God was truly with you?

Tuesday: 1 John 1:1-3

John used lofty, nearly ecstatic language as he reflected (probably several decades later) on his experience of knowing and following Jesus. Why did John say, "What we have seen and our hands handled"? Who were the "we" in John's verses? Does it strengthen your faith to hear this testimony from eyewitnesses?

Wednesday: John 14:7-11

The gospel of John began with language similar to what we read in 1 John: "No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known" (John 1:18). John also recorded that Jesus himself, on the night before his crucifixion, told the disciples, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Is it hard for you to relate God the Father to Jesus? How well do you feel that you "know" Jesus, both as a person and as God?

Thursday: Colossians 1:13-20

The poetic words of verses 15-20 appear to be the lyrics to an early Christian hymn in honor of Jesus. Like other first-century Christian writing, these verses did not seek to explain the mystery that the human Jesus was "God with us." They simply stated it as the reality. Do these verses help you to fully accept just who Jesus and therefore God is? Do they help you see that Jesus truly was and is "God with us"?

Friday: Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus was not "God with us" in the way we might expect God to come. Today's reading, another early Christian hymn, honored Jesus, but not by starting with his power or majesty. It praised his willingness to "empty himself" for us. Jesus did not demand divine prerogatives, but came to serve, and even to suffer. Could Jesus have avoided these difficulties? Why didn't he? Of what did he "empty himself"?

MOVING FORWARD

God came to this earth in the form of a human baby. This has three implications for us. First, God knows and understands us because he has walked in our shoes. Second, he shows us who God is. Third, so that we know that he is always with us. Those are the blessings of Emmanuel. But the blessings come with expectations too. Our call as followers of Emmanuel is to incarnate his love, life, and good news to other people. We are to be visible reminders that God is with us, that God is love, and that we don't have to be afraid.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Judah, B) baby, C) foreshadowing. IIA) human, B) trinity, IIIA1) understands, 2) picture, 3) God, B) love.