

Immanuel: God with Us

INTRODUCTION

- In the Christian calendar on the way to celebrating Christmas there is a spiritual practice called Advent. It is meant to be a time of waiting and preparation for the arrival of Jesus. The importance of these spiritual practices is that when our hearts and lives have shifted they bring us back to God.
 - **Story: Son Advent Calendar**
- What is the purpose of Christmas?
 - We celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas but fundamentally it is more than just about his birth, but his arrival into our world. God breaks into human history and enters it. This is God's greatest and most wonderful gift to us, Himself.

Transition:

- If Christmas is about Jesus' arrival, why was Jesus' arrival necessary? His arrival was necessary because of sin. Sin has broken our relationship with God and with one another. Because of sin there is brokenness, there is hurt, there is injustice, there is suffering.

Main Idea: The arrival of Jesus is God's response to a broken, hurting, sinful world.

Scripture Reading: John 3:16-21

Prayer

Holy Spirit, remind us to slow down. As we reflect on the brokenness, and hurt, and sin of our own lives, and our world, enable us to understand what God has done through His Son Jesus. Holy Spirit we need you. We need more of God's manifest presence in our lives, to remind us that you love us and that you will never leave us or forsake, but that you are always with us.

ESSENTIALS

1. God Loves You
2. God is With You

ESSENTIALS

1. God Loves You

a. **Scripture:** John 3:16-7

- i. **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,** that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

b. **Explanation:**

- i. God engaged and entered our world because of love
- ii. “For God so loved the world”
- iii. What are God's feelings towards us? What does God choose? Love. GOD LOVES US(YOU). The arrival of Jesus is God's demonstration of love. He engaged and entered our world because of love.
- iv. God engaging and entering our world was costly
- v. “He gave his one and only Son”
- vi. Love came with a cost, Jesus surrendered to God the Father, he laid down his life for us so that we may become right with God.

c. **Illustration:**

- i. Jesus' arrival was necessary because of our sin. What is sin? Sin is missing the mark. In thought or in act we have missed the mark of God's divine law, we have violated God's law. God's law against Him, God's law against our neighbor.
- ii. The penalty of our sin is judgment, it is deservedly God's wrath.
- iii. Because of sin our relationship with God is broken, our relationship with one another is broken.
- iv. The reality of our human condition is that we need saving from the penalty of our sin. So God responds to our need to be saved by sending His only Son Jesus to enter our world and be with us and live as one of us. He took on what we deserved.

v. **Story: Driving Violation**

Transition:

2. God Is With Us

a. Scripture: John 3:16-7

- i. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **For God did not send his Son into the world** to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

b. Explanation:

- i. By engaging and entering into humanity Jesus experienced the brokenness, hurt, and sin of humanity
 1. Family displaced as a child
 2. His life was threatened
 3. He was mocked
 4. He was betrayed
 5. He was abandoned
 6. He was falsely accused
 7. He was ridiculed
 8. He was physically beaten
 9. He was killed
- ii. Jesus engaged our world by entering it. He became like us so we can become like him. By being with us he experienced the pain, the suffering, and the injustice of a broken, hurting, sinful world. Because he has experienced our brokenness, hurt, and sin he can empathize with us.

c. Illustration:

i. Story: Encounter God’s Love

1. God found me in my sin, brokenness, and hurt.
2. God found me because He loves me.
3. God found me at the cost of sending His Son and laying down His life.
4. God restored me through His Son Jesus Christ, granting me eternal life and a right relationship with Him and transforming my relationships with others.

Transition: The arrival of Jesus is God's response to a broken, hurting, sinful world. More directly, the arrival of Jesus is God's response to your brokenness, your hurt, your sin. God loves you, your identity is not based on your performance but what Jesus has done for you on the cross. God is with you no matter how chaotic or broken your life may seem.

- God Loves You
- God Is With You
- Scripture: Matthew 1:18-23

Conclusion:

- God's plan for your life is redemption. If you think the chaos of your life—the pain, the hurt, and the sin—is too great for God, I invite you to encounter the beauty of God's love and grace available to you in Jesus Christ. It is for this reason that he arrived. God loves you. God is with you.
- **The Holy Spirit Makes The Presence Of God Manifest In Our Lives**

COMMUNION

- **Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
 - For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when **he had given thanks**, he broke it and said, "**This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.**" In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**" For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **Everyone ought to examine themselves before they** eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
 - "Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst; bringing us into communion with God and with one another; feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom."

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace,

shalom, from this day forward

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen

Sermon Notes

- The Gospel Coalition: How is brokenness different from sin?
https://youtu.be/QxRqAu_oJPE?si=3v7ADJe5qx1O62kC
- Shaped by the Gospel by Timothy Keller