

1—A Spirit of Togetherness

11/18/23

INTRO:

I. → **Matthew 1:20-23**

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

→ *“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**” (which means “**God with us**”).*

II. **Isaiah 7:14**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The **virgin** will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**.*

A. Heb (*almah*) girl of childbearing age

B. Grk (*parthenos*) virgin

III. Lord tells Noah, “Take your wife and sons **with you**” (Ge 6:18)

He tells Isaac, “Do not be afraid, I am **with you**” (Ge 26:23)

He tells Moses, “I will be **with you** in Egypt” (Ex 3:12)

He tells Joshua, “As I was with Moses, so will I be **with you**” (1:5)

Barak tells Deborah “If you go **with me** I will go” (Jdg 4:8)

Naomi asks Ruth “Why would you come **with me**” (Ruth 1:11)

Saul tells David “Go, and the Lord be **with you**” (1 Sam 17:37)

Psalms 23 says, “I will fear no evil, for you are **with me**” (Ps 23:4)

Psalms 46 says, “Yahweh of Hosts is **with us**; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Ps 46:7)

BODY:

I. The Reunion of Family

- A. Christianity is more than just religion, it is community.
- 1) **Acts 2:46-47**
Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.
 - 2) MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRESENTS IS YOUR PRESENCE
- B. Every get-together is an opportunity to encourage.
- 1) **Hebrews 10:24-25**
*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up **meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging** one another.*
 - 2) AFFIRMATION BUTTON HIDDEN UNDERNEATH

II. The Blessing of Unity

- A. If makes the Father's heart happy to see us getting along.
- 1) **Psalms 133:1**
*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell **together in unity!***
 - 2) Heb (*yachad*) in unity, as one
 - 3) FOCUSING ON THE THING WE HAVE IN COMMON
- B. It is in the spirit of unity that Jesus does his greatest work.
- 1) **Matthew 18:19-20**
"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
 - 2) PEOPLE COMMENTING ON THE REINDEER

III. The Bond of Fellowship

- A. After all the years these are things we will remember.
- 1) **Ephesians 4:31-32**
Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
 - 2) **FESTIVUS—THE ANNUAL AIRING OF GREVIANCES**
- B. The most important gift God gave us is love.
- 1) **Colossians 3:14**
And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
 - 2) **THE GRINCH—IT CAME JUST THE SAME**
 - 3) **CARTER'S FEET IN MOLLY'S BACK**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 8:10

Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted;
propose your plan, but it will not stand,
for God is with us. (for immanu El)

Philippians 1:27-28

Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

Philippians 2:1-3

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Colossians 2:9-10

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.

John 14:17

"The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.