



**Sermon series:** A Name Like No Other

**To be used with Session 4:** The Salvation Expressed in God's Name

**Sermon Possibilities:** For He Alone is Worthy

**Scripture:** Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25

**Connection to Unit Theme:** To compliment the Bible study “A Name Like No Other,” this sermon will examine the salvation found in God’s name. Not only does God have a name like no other, but He can do something that no one else can do; he can save us. This concept of salvation comes down to saving us from the eternal penalties of sin and providing us with the opportunity to enjoy eternal benefits with Him instead. To truly grasp and appreciate this, we must understand the avenue through which God provided this opportunity -, His only Son, Jesus. who took our place and sacrificed Himself for our sins. While Jesus’s story essentially began with what we know as the Christmas narrative, this was simply a stop on the journey to His ultimate assignment, His death, burial, and resurrection. No one else has ever made a sacrifice of this magnitude, nor does anyone else have the capacity to even try. Salvation through Christ is worthy of our devotion, worship, and praise.

**Introduction:** There’s a very well-known hymn that’s typically sung during the Advent (Christmas) season, entitled, “Oh Come All Ye Faithful.” One well known line that the song repeats is, “Oh Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord.” Another well known line that we love to sing is, “For he alone is worthy, Christ the lord.” This is to express that not only are adoring Him, but we acknowledge that no one and nothing is deserving of this adoration, God alone is worthy. As we examine the narratives in Isaiah 7 and Matthew 1, we see the Prophet telling Israel of the forthcoming Messiah, and then in Matthew, we see the long-anticipated arrival of this Messiah. However, this was not just another baby. This was not just another birth, but the child that arrived would go on to change the world and save the world. Many a child has been born that went on to do amazing things. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Barack and Michelle Obama, and yet no one could have predicted who they would ultimately become. However, even these great names can’t even begin to compare to who arrived in Bethlehem when the Savior showed up.

### **1. No Ordinary Baby (Isaiah 7:14).**

Babies are born every day, literally. All over the world mothers give birth to children, and while this is an exciting moment for many, typically no one expects the baby that’s born to save the world. However, that is what God through the prophet Isaiah tells Israel is going to happen. A baby would be born, and this baby would do something that no one else had

ever done. In Chapter 7, the prophet says, “*the lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and have a son, and call his name, ‘Immanuel.’*” At first glance, this sounds like its just another pregnancy announcement. However, as we examine the name of the forthcoming baby, we see that this was no ordinary baby. The name, “*Immanuel,*” is translated, “God with us,” which places this child on a totally different level from any other child. Moreover, while this was not the first time that God had told someone that a baby was coming (Abraham and Sarah) this was the first time that an arrival of this magnitude was (Isaiah 9:6) (Zechariah 9:9) prophesied.

## **2. Watch Who This Baby Becomes (Matthew 1:18-21).**

As a Youth Pastor, I have said on many occasions that the enemy doesn’t target our young people because of where and what they are now, but he attacks them because of what they will become in the future. He doesn’t want our young people to realize their potential, because while he may not know everything like the Lord does, he does have enough sense to know when someone is a threat to his plans. We see throughout scripture, the devil is not above attacking children that he feels will develop into someone or something that will foil his plans. In Matthew 1, we are introduced to Mary and Joseph. Once it becomes apparent that his wife is pregnant despite not “knowing” each other in the biblical sense, Joseph decides in his heart to divorce her privately. However, an angel of the Lord speaks to Joseph in a dream and tells him that this pregnancy was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and that this child would save the world from sin. Until now, Joseph had no idea what purpose this baby would serve. He knew he needed to make sure that his wife was cared for and that their forthcoming son was safe. As parents, we must have this same urgency with our children. You may not be birthing a Messiah, but you never know who God has given the world through you. If God has entrusted children to your care, follow Joseph’s example and be good stewards over them.

## **3. God with Us There (Matthew 1:22-25).**

All of us can probably point to someone in our lives who has promised to never leave us. Parents promise this to children, friends promise this to friends, romantic partners promise this to each other, and even pastors will sometimes promise it to their congregations. However, the reality is this is a promise that none of us can truly keep., We learn in James 4:14, “*life is but a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*” Therefore, as much as we may want to make these promises, the reality is that we are truly limited. Matthew 1 reiterates the meaning of the name, “Immanuel,” which means God is with us. This is a continual state of being, meaning He has always been with us, He is with us right now, and He will always be with us in the future. This is yet another attribute of God that makes Him worthy of praise and devotion that no one else is. He alone can promise to never leave us and actually fulfill that promise. Mom and Dad can’t stay around forever. Friends can’t

stay around forever. Husbands, wives, pastors, family members, cannot stay around forever. But there is somebody who will never go anywhere. There is somebody who will never leave us alone. His name is Jesus!

**Conclusion:** As miraculous as the birth of Jesus Christ is, there is so much more to the story than a virgin mother giving birth to a baby in a stable in a manger. No other baby has ever or will ever have the power to save the world. No other baby will ever make the impact that Jesus has made and is still making today. All of this happened centuries ago, and yet this baby is still saving lives all these years later. The Lord sent Jesus to provide us with the right to restore our relationship with Him, but this is a benefit that we must take advantage of. Romans 10:9 states, *“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* if you don’t have that personal relationship with Jesus Christ, don’t wait. Tomorrow is not promised. *“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).* That name is worthy. That name is Jesus.