



Jesus, God With Us

Hebrews 2:5-18 – Jesus Made Like His Brothers

This is our pre-Christmas sermon that will journey back to the beginning of Hebrews and look at the Creator King, who became one of us. For a little while God became man, becoming “lower” than the angels. However, that didn’t change for one moment what the angels thought about this event – as they stood singing His praises to the shepherds. We will praise God this Sunday for coming to be with us. Just when it seemed like God was so distant...so far away...and so disconnected from our everyday lives...He became one of us. His birth was beautiful, but it very intentionally led to His death, which also led to our life. We will celebrate this together as we look toward Christmas.

READ: Matthew 1:18-25

Q: Describe the circumstances of Jesus’ birth.

Q: What did Joseph plan to do because he was a just and righteous man?

A Jewish betrothal was more binding than our modern-day engagement period and could only be broken through divorce. A betrothed man and woman were called husband and wife. If a woman pledged to be married was found unfaithful, she would be judged publicly and stoned to death. (Deuteronomy 22:23-24).

Q: What made Joseph change his mind about divorcing Mary? Who appeared to him in a dream? What message calmed his fears?

Q: What was the significance of naming the baby, Jesus?

Q: What Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) was fulfilled through this event?

Q: How is the name, “Immanuel” defined? What promise in Hebrews 13:5 confirms this truth?

Q: What did Joseph do when he woke up from his dream?

Discuss the role of angels in our lives. Hebrews 1:14 tells us that angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.

READ: Luke 2:8-20

Q: What unusual event terrified the shepherds in the fields? What was the good news that calmed their fears?

Q: What sign would confirm the good news?

Q: Who suddenly appeared with the angel and what did they express?

life group study guide

December 22, 2013

In this verse, we find a mini hymn of praise to God called, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," which meant Glory to God in the Highest. The angels recognized the glory and majesty of the Son of God and sang this hymn of praise to Him.

Q: What did the shepherds decide to do after the angels left them? What did they find?

Q: What did the shepherds do after seeing the child themselves? How did the people react?

Q: What was Mary's response to this blessed event?

Q: How did the shepherds respond to the things they had heard and seen? What is your response to the Good News of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God With Us!

READ: Hebrews 2:5-18

Q: To whom did God NOT subject the world?

This passage originates from Psalm 8:4-6 where the psalmist is awestruck by God's handiwork and marvels that He entrusted man with a place of authority over creation.

Q: How did God make man? How was he crowned? What place of dominion was given him?

Q: Even though man was given dominion, what do we yet not see? When do you think man's place of dominion over all creatures will be restored?

Q: Compare Jesus to how man was made. What difference do we see in the Son of Man?

Q: What did Jesus taste for us by the grace of God? What resulted?

Q: For and through whom do all things exist?

Q: How was Jesus, the author of our salvation, made perfect? How have trials personally affected you?

Q: Who is of the same family? What is Jesus not ashamed to call them?

Q: What three declarations does Jesus make in these verses? What does Jesus share with the children God has given Him?

Q: What did Jesus destroy through His death? Whom did he free?

Q: Whom does Jesus NOT help? Whom does He help?

Q: For what two reasons did Jesus have to be made exactly like his brothers?

Q: What resulted from the sufferings of Jesus?

Discuss what it means to have a High Priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. How can we approach God because of the role Jesus plays as our High Priest? See Hebrews 4:15-16.