

Sermon Title: Our Mysterious and Majestic King
Sermon Text: Matthew 1:18-25
FBC AZ City - 12/16/18

Introduction: (Slide # 1)

In sports history there have been moments in time that have been described as miracles. Most all of these miracles have to do with an underdog that is facing the jaws of defeat and yet somehow the player or team comes out victorious; these moments are described by commentators and observers are described as moments of divine intervention.

- **The Miracle on Ice - On February 20, 1980.** I was only 10 years old but I still remember our family gathered around and watching the miracle on television. I didn't even know what hockey was growing up in south Texas. It was a medal round hockey game that took place in Lake Placid, New York in the 1980 Winter Olympics against the dominate four-time defending gold medalists, Soviet Union. The U.S. hockey team beat the Russian team 4-3 that night.

Nothing compares to the most extraordinary miracle in the whole Bible, and the most remarkable mystery in the whole universe. The birth of Jesus is the extraordinary miracle I am talking about.

(Slides # 2-5)

Read Matthew 1:18-25 (CSB)

The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged[a] to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. 20 But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,[b] which is translated "God is with us."

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her 25 but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son.[c] And he named him Jesus.

What makes the birth of Jesus so incredible? There isn't just one reason, there are a multitude of reasons. I will give you two reasons this morning.

Reason # 1 - How Jesus Came (Slide # 6)

Vs. 18 tells us that the birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: Mary became pregnant “from (by) the Holy Spirit.”

In Luke’s gospel when Mary receives the news that she is pregnant, she asks the question, “How can this be?”

Here in Matthew 1:18 we are told she received this news before the couple had come together. In other words, before Mary and Joseph had consummated their marriage physically, they received news that Mary was pregnant.

Matthew is telling us that Jesus didn’t come by ordinary means. **There is something supernatural going on.** The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in the womb of the virgin Mary. As born-again believers in Jesus Christ, and as believers in the atoning work of Christ, the virgin birth of Jesus is critical to our salvation. **Two key points in relationship to the importance of the virgin birth:**

- ★ **Jesus needed to be sinless.** You and I can’t be saved by one who has committed sin. We must be redeemed by a **perfect sacrifice.** In the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, the writer is teaching about Jesus is the true great priest. There is no other priest needed in our lives because every other priest will fall short. Every Old Testament and modern day priest has sinned. No other priest to ever walk the face of the earth is worthy of interceding on my behalf before God because they all have been born into sin. Jesus’ birth fulfilled prophecy from the OT and also conveyed he was NO ordinary priest that had come before him.

Read Hebrews 7:26 (CSB)

“For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.”

- ★ **Jesus bypassed the curse of original sin.** This is slightly complicated but let me make it as simple as I can. All of mankind is born from the first created couple: Adam and Eve. Because of their original and initial sin in the Garden of Eden, all of their descendants are cursed spiritually. In order to break that cycle, there had to be a different kind of man (Jesus was fully God and fully man) and a different kind of birth. **The writer of Romans points this truth out.**

Read Romans 5:12, 19 (CSB)

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. 19 - For just as through one man’s disobedience (speaking of Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through one righteous act (obedience all the way to the cross) there is justification leading to life for everyone.”

When you choose to follow Jesus, you aren’t just following the Master Teacher of Christianity, you are following the only person in the entire world that can truly offer you salvation from sin. Jesus is uniquely born of the Holy Spirit.

How Jesus Came is directly linked to **How you Gain True Freedom**.

Let me put it this way: If you were drowning in a lake in the middle of a storm, would you rather have someone trying to save you that is in the water with you, or someone that is standing in a boat that is going to be able to pull you to safety and take you to solid ground?

What makes Jesus' birth so extraordinary? How Jesus Came and...

Reason # 2 - Who Jesus Is (Slide # 7)

I want you to notice the three references to Jesus' name in this passage.

- ❖ **The first reference is from verse 21, when the angel appeared to Joseph and told Joseph, "you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from his sins."** This name is the same name translated Joshua in the Old Testament. The meaning of the name literally means, "salvation." Matthew, the writer here, is connecting Jesus' birth with the salvation of mankind. This is the Messiah that the world has been waiting for.
- ❖ **The second reference to Jesus' naming is in verse 23. This verse is actually a direct quote from an Old Testament passage.** This quote is being offered up by Matthew as another point of clarification as to who Jesus is. In Isaiah 7:14, the prophet tells King Ahaz God will give him a sign: "virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel." Then Matthew adds the meaning of this name. Immanuel means "God is with us." In other words, Matthew is declaring boldly and clearly Jesus, who is shortly going to be born in human flesh, is truly God.
- ❖ **The third reference to Jesus' naming is in verse 25.** Matthew makes clear that Joseph named the baby boy, Jesus. Joseph obeyed the instruction of the angel in verse 21.

Why is this information important? What is the significance of two names being referenced by Matthew?

There is no problem in referring the names of Jesus and Immanuel to the same person. One is a personal name and one is descriptive of the task the person will be performing.

Bringing the presence of God to man, Jesus brings also the promised salvation. Jesus who is being born embodies God's presence and His saving work. **Jesus is with you!**

In fact, it is on purpose that Matthew puts at the very end of this book...in fact the very last words of the book (in Matthew 28:20), "...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Here is the remarkable point about who Jesus is. **Not only is Jesus with you, but Jesus is God.** Jesus' human nature and divine nature are perfectly unified. We see this all through the gospels. Let me give you a few examples:

- He was born a baby and He sustains the universe.
- He was 30 years old and He exists eternally.
- He was tired and omnipotent.
- He died and He conquered death.
- He has returned to heaven and He is present with us.

Everything that is done by Jesus is unified in such a way that we don't need to distinguish between his human nature or divine nature, because they are always working in perfect unity.

One theologian gives this analogy: If I were to write a letter, though my toes had nothing to do with the writing process, I would still say, 'I wrote the letter,' NOT, 'my fingers wrote the letter, but my toes had nothing to do with it.' I simply say that I wrote the letter, and the meaning is understood.

Principle: God is the Creator and Re-Creator of all things.

- ★ He takes the hurts in our lives, and He turns them into joy.
- ★ He takes the suffering in our lives, and He turns them into satisfaction.
- ★ He takes the grief in our lives, and He turns them into new beginnings.
- ★ He takes the rebellion in our lives, and He clothes us in His righteousness.
- ★ He takes the sin in our lives, and He brings salvation.

Do you want a change in your life? Do you need a do over? Come to Jesus. His very birth reminds us that God is with you. God is the Creator and Re-Creator of all things!
(Slide # 8)

Conclusion:

The United States hockey team victory in the 1980 Winter Olympics became one of the most iconic moments of the Games and in U.S. sports. Equally well-known was the television call of the final seconds of the game by [Al Michaels](#) for [ABC](#), in which he declared: "Do you believe in miracles?! YES!" In 1999, [Sports Illustrated](#) named the "Miracle on Ice" the top sports moment of the 20th century.^[1] As part of its centennial celebration in 2008, the [International Ice Hockey Federation](#) (IIHF) named the "Miracle on Ice" as the best international ice hockey story of the past 100 years.^[2]

Even though the Miracle on Ice is an incredibly amazing sports moment, it is nothing compared to the Christmas Miracle found in Matthew chapter 1. How can you truly receive and believe the truth of the extraordinary miracle of Christmas?

- Share Jesus with others, Know Jesus is with You Always, Accept Jesus today!