

## God With Us

*Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

*John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

1. Introduction
  1. I am sure you have been able to watch the delight in the faces of children and adults alike as we move closer to Christmas Day. Children are giggly, and when the adults can set aside their stresses, they can enjoy Jesus' day, just as much as the kids.
  2. I think about how Martha got so upset about preparations for a visit from Jesus, that she fussed at her sister Mary and complained about it to Jesus.

3. Jesus said gave Martha some advice:  
*Luke 10:41-42*  
*41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*  
*42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*
4. Let us focus on the presence of Jesus, because that is what is needful and shall not be taken away.

II. Immanuel

A. God in flesh

1. Jesus, that Son born to Mary, is the Immanuel, which means...

*Matt 1:21-23*

*21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

*22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the*

*prophet, saying,*

*23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.***

2. Jesus is Emmanuel, in other words, Jesus is God With Us.
3. Last week we spoke about John 1:14:  
*John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
4. That verse tells us that God became flesh and “**dwelt among us.**” Literally, that means God set up tent with us, or **tabernacled** with us. God chose to live right among us.
5. And if we can simplify the meaning of Christmas and all the joys that come with it, it is that God chose to dwell with us.
6. Not just as an invisible God in heaven, but as a human, living among His people.

7. Jesus touched people and people touched Him.
  8. Jesus listened to people and people listened to Him.
  9. People asked for prayer and Jesus prayed for them and healed their sicknesses, forgave their sins, delivered them from devils, and protected their lives.
  10. And of course, Jesus died for our sins and rose again and sent His Holy Spirit to live in us yet today.
  11. And everyone here can receive the Holy Ghost, that indwelling presence of Jesus that is still, Immanuel, God with us.
- B. What does that mean, God with us?
1. I want you to know that you can call on the name of Jesus and He is as close as the mention of His name.
  2. Our near fatal car accident on 231. We called on the name, and Immanuel, God

With Us showed up fast and rescued our lives from certain death.

3. A woman alone at home and burglar forced his way in the house intending to harm her. She called on the name, and God With Us showed up, the man fled rescuing her from great harm.
4. We worked at children's camps for a number of years and I have a vivid memory of praying for a 9-year-old boy at altar at camp. I remember as we prayed, he called the name of Jesus over and over, and received the Holy Ghost. God With Us was present when a child called on Him. And the young man is pastoring a church in northern Indiana.
5. 2 weeks ago, right up here in this baptistery, Gary called on the name of the Lord, I spoke the name of Jesus over him in baptism, God With Us showed up right

there in the water and filled Gary with the Holy Ghost. God With Us changed a life.

6. I can tell you my story as a 14-year-old boy in a baptistery in San Antonio, Texas. I had called on the name of the Lord at the altar in repentance, my pastor called on the name of the Lord over me in baptism, and God With Us showed in my life has showing up making a difference ever since.
7. Immanuel, God With Us.
8. How else is God With Us, in untold number of ways, but what about at times when we need help to overcome temptation?
9. What about when sin is lurking at our door trying to get us to fall to some sin, can God With Us really be there with us at such a time?
10. God is faithful and makes a way to escape so you can bear it.

*1 Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God***

*is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will **with the temptation also make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.*

11. With every temptation that we face, God also makes a way out available to us.

12. What about when I am afraid? Where is God then?

*Ps 56:3-4*

*3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.*

*4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*

13. *Ps 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

14. That is why Jesus is called Emmanuel, God With Us.

III. Conclusion

1. Some folks express doubts about God because of they saw some bad thing or

some unjust suffering came, and it shook their belief.

2. But the truth about God With Us, is that Jesus wants to walk alongside us as we go through evil, bad, and suffering.
3. That is because all who endure those things with **God With Us**, indeed, come through with a testimony that God is able to see us through it all!
4. The God With Us who is real, wants to be your companion through your trials. You don't know it, but there are times when He is carrying you and there is only one set of footprints left in the sands of time, because of God With Us.
5. So as we celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas Day, remember what that really means—Jesus is God With Us!