

## Intro

- In our Series "Jesus is Coming"
- 3 weeks ago= Be Ready
  - Build an ark
  - On dry land, with no rain ever
  - Translated into being different than the culture around us
  - The ark is the church
- 2 weeks= Turn
  - Turn to God
  - Turn and turn again
- Last week= See
  - In the midst of our doubt can we see what Jesus is doing
  - The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them
- This week= Dream

## Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- v. 18-19 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.
  - Deuteronomy 22:20-21 20 But if the thing is true, that evidence of virginity was not found in the young woman, 21 then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done an outrageous thing in Israel by whoring in her father's house. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.
  - OT way of handling things
  - Joseph could have done this
- v. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
  - Dreams throughout the Bible
    - OT Joseph in Genesis
    - Solomon in 1 Kings 3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what you wish me to give you."
    - Throughout the book of Daniel
    - Wise men in Matthew 2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another route.
    - Joseph again in Matthew 2:19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.
      - Okay to leave Egypt and go back home
    - Pilate's wife in Matthew 27:19 While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered terribly in a dream today because of Him."
    - Peter on the day of Pentecost quotes the prophet Joel in Acts 2:17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;
  - Dreams are important
  - Full Moon
  - Prayed for years for Dreams, has happened recently
  - Life changing dream
- v.21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- Jeremiah 23:5-6 5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'
- John the Baptist in John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- Peter before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:11-12 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- This was the dream, a Savior, a Messiah
- You shall call him =Jesus
- Save people from their sins
- Wow, big important news
- v.22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
  - Luke 24:44 Jesus said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."
  - Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,
- v.23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).
  - Words from Isaiah 7
  - Throughout the OT "God is with us"
  - Romans 8:31 What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
  - Comforting= God with us
  - He is with us all the time
- v.24-25 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.
  - This was a dream that changed Joseph's actions and influenced his decisions
  - All have had vivid and realistic dreams that have seemed real
    - Wake up= just a dream
    - Maybe we tell someone
    - Maybe we try to figure out what it means
    - In the end=just a dream not reality
  - Joseph acted as though a dream wasn't just a dream
    - Didn't dismiss it
    - Info in dream was more reality than what he knew to be true
      - Woman pregnant=man
    - Changed the way he made choices
      - Still a good an honorable man
      - Instead of making choices based on honor and tradition
      - Make choices on Faith and Belief in God and the Holy Spirit that he seen through the angel
      - Obedience to God's will
  - Through this act Joseph was changed and transformed
    - Inside and Out
    - Heart was changed
    - World was changed- now the father of the Jesus
    - His spirit was opened up to new possibilities

## Closing

- What does this mean for us
  - Awakening for us
  - Act on a dream
  - Believe in a dream
  - Trust that something that seems like it can't be real is actually real after all
- Believe in the Dream of Jesus Christ