Date: December 14, 2025 **Pastor: Asa Hart**

Title: "God With Us"

Series: Beginnings – The Promise Fulfilled **Text: Matthew 1:18-25**

Main point: *The Incarnation promises that God will save us and be with us again.*

I. **<u>See</u>** the **<u>Scandal</u>** of the Incarnation, vv. 18-19 *(see also Deut. 22:23-27; 24:1; Is. 9:6-7; 53:1-6; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:1-11)*

II. **<u>Hope</u>** in the **<u>Message</u>** of the Incarnation, vv. 20-23 *(see also Is. 7:10-25; 8:8-10; Pss. 130:8; Ezek. 36:23; 37:21-28; Matt. 18:20; 28:20; Heb. 13:5; Rev. 21:1-5)*

III. **<u>Delight</u>** in the **<u>Fact</u>** of the Incarnation, vv. 24-25 *(see also Gen. 3:15; 15:6-11; 49:8-12; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Acts 7:51-53; Col. 1:15-23)*

Questions for Reflection

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Why was Joseph seeking to divorce Mary? In first century Judea, what would it mean for a woman to be pregnant out of wedlock? What would be her prospects for the future? If Joseph doesn't change his mind, what happens to Mary and Jesus? If Joseph doesn't adopt Jesus, what is Jesus' claim to the throne of Israel? How does the simple faithfulness of Joseph and Mary in difficult circumstances teach us? Did Mary and Joseph do incredible things by our standards today? Why is faithfully raising a family so counter-cultural today? How does faithfully raising a family communicate and advance the Gospel?

2. Why is the Incarnation scandalous? How might we anticipate the king of creation to entering into our world? Why would God send his Son in such a lowly manner? What does that tell us about the way we measure success and growth? How might that encourage us in our evangelism? How might that encourage us when obedience might seem costly or destructive? Reflecting on the genealogy last week and the birth narrative this week, how does the lowly Jesus tell us that ALL are welcome and have open access to bow before this king?

3. Why is it important that the events of Matthew 1:18-25 actually happened? Why have Christians contended for millennia that the Jesus in the Gospels is the historical person who walked, talked, and ate in Judea and Galilee in the first century? Why have liberal denominations dismissed the virgin birth, the physical resurrection, and the accurate predictions in the teachings of Jesus? What happens to Christianity if we reject these things? Are there things in the Bible that you find embarrassing or are dismissive about?

4. Christ is speaking so that you might hear and in hearing you might turn to him, and in turning to him, he might heal you. What do you need to bring before him today?

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 2:1-12, Andy McClellan

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