

Waiting For You

Waiting for Immanuel

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – December 3, 2017

1. Open in prayer.
2. Advent means waiting. During this season, we need to slow down and contemplate on what Jesus has done for us.
 - Why is slowing down and contemplating on what Jesus has done for us important to our discipleship?
 - What happens when we move too fast in life and don't contemplate on what Jesus has done for us?
3. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:20-23.
 - The prophet Isaiah wrote this prophecy about Jesus 700 years before He was born.
 - Immanuel means God with us. God desires to be with us.
 - Since God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is a "with us" God, how does that affect the way we see His relationship with us?
 - How does it change the way we live when we realize God wants to be with His family?
4. God was with Adam and Eve in the Garden. The Garden of Eden was God's Temple.
 - Read Genesis 3:8.
God did not literally walk with them. This speaks of God covenant relationship with Adam and Eve.
 - Read Genesis 3:24.
The Cherubim are angels that always guard the holy of holies. The Garden of Eden was God's temple and He was with His family.
 - What insights can we gather from this Scripture that will help us mature as disciples of Jesus?
5. God was with the Jewish people in the Tabernacle and the Temple.
 - Read Exodus 25:8-9 and 2 Chronicles 3:1; 8-10.
Notice the Cherubim were around the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple, just like in the Garden of Eden.
 - What insights can we glean from these passages?
6. Jesus, God the Son Himself, was with us.
 - Read John 1:14.
Note: The Greek verb used in the phrase "took up residence" literally means "to dwell in a tent" and likely alludes to the Old Testament tabernacle as God's dwelling among His people. Through His Son, God is taking up a post among His people just as He did for ancient Israel. His glory alludes to the manifestations of divine glory in the Old Testament. Yahweh's presence could be found in the Tabernacle and Temple. (Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (John 1:14). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)
 - In view of John 1:14 and the above note, discuss what it means for God the Son to take up residence in us, to dwell in us.
 - How does this passage help us understand how Christ lives in and through us?

7. In the New Heavens and the New Earth, God will once again be with us.
 - Read Revelation 21:1-4.
 - What insights can we gain when we read that God wants to be with us?

8. Pastor Derwin used the acronym “**WITH**” to discuss the practical implications of God being with us.
 - God wants to **Walk** with us.
 - Read Galatians 5:16; 22-23.
 - Discuss how God walking with us transforms us.
 - God wants to **Indwell** us.
 - Read Galatians 2:20.
 - Discuss how God indwelling us transforms us.
 - God wants us to be His **Temple**.
 - Read Ephesians 2:21-22.
 - Discuss how us being God’s Temple transforms us.
 - God wants to give us the **Holy Spirit’s** power.
 - Read Acts 1:8.
 - Discuss how God being with us gives us the Holy Spirit’s power.
 - How does the Holy Spirit empower us to live upward, inward, outward lives?

Soul-tattoo: Marinate on this week’s Advent card.

Advent Week 2: “Waiting for Immanuel” follow along with our series advent cards at TransformationChurch.tc/Christmas

Book Recommendation: Jesus: A Theography, by Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola.