



BEHOLD THE KING

MATTHEW



★ Christmas Eve ★

- Services will be held at regular times
- Each service will last about an hour
- Nursery provided for infants and toddlers under the age of 2 at the 8:30 and 10:30 services



2024

NEW YEARS EVE SERVICES

- 8 A.M.
- 9:30 A.M.
- 11 A.M.

Nursery available
for all three
services

O Little Town of Bethlehem –
“Christ is born of Mary”

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Hark the Herald Angels Sing –
“offspring of the virgin’s womb”

What can we learn from Joseph's call?

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1. God calls us **in real time**.

“What if tomorrow someone digs up definitive proof that Jesus has a real earthly, biological father named Larry,

“and archeologists find Larry’s tomb and do DNA samples and prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was really just a bit of mythologizing ...?”

Rob Bell

“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.”

Matthew 1:18

“The concept of ‘son of man’ is not some concrete person belonging to history, someone individual or unique, but an ‘eternal’ facticity, a psychological symbol that has been redeemed from the concept of time, ... it is everywhere, and it is nowhere.”

Frederick Nietzsche

“But instead of saying that God came into the world through Jesus, maybe it would be better to say that Jesus came out of an already Christ-soaked world.”

Richard Rohr

“This suspicion of particularity can be a healthy instinct against being trapped in the assumptions of one’s own place and time,

“but it can easily balloon into the prejudice that anything temporally or geographically specific – including Christ himself – must be naïve, partial, and blinkered.”

Christopher Watkin

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- the sacredness of the material, the physical
- the significance of the incarnation
- the way to maturity and intimacy

“The idea of the Incarnation is just too fantastic. It is high fantasy, which is high truth.

“And we do well to remember that, not to push it down and say, ‘Oh, this is childish.’ It isn’t. It’s being the most grown up we can possibly be.”

Madeline L’Engle

“The greatest mystery is not the most distant star; on the contrary, the closer something comes to us and the better we know it, then the more mysterious it becomes for us.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1. God calls us in real time.
2. God calls us **away from fear**.

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- Expose her
- Divorce her

When Joseph found out that his wife-to-be Mary was pregnant, he had three options:

- Expose her
- Divorce her
- Marry her

“And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.”

Matthew 1:19

“He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

“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.’”

Matthew 1:20

God's call is often hidden
behind the thing we fear.

1. God calls us in real time.
2. God calls us away from fear.
3. God calls us **to see our greatest need**.

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21a

“[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

Matthew 1:21a

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Hebrew – Yehoshua = Yahweh is salvation

Shorter form – Yeshua = Yahweh saves

“He will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21b

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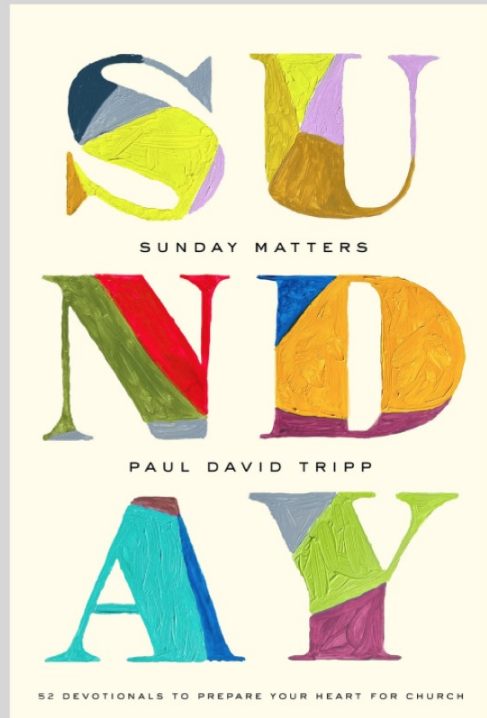
SUNDAY MATTERS

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PAUL DAVID TRIPP

AY

52 DEVOTIONALS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHURCH



“It is vital for us to be reminded again and again that his primary mission was not to be our teacher, our healer, or our example.

“Yes, by grace, he is all of these things to us, but it is important to understand that he came to be our Jesus, that is, the one who would save us from the thing we could not save ourselves from: sin.

“Sin is the biggest of all human problems, and it lies at the heart of all other human tragedies. Before sin entered the world, there was no sadness, no sickness, no suffering of any kind.

“Everything was where it was meant to be and doing exactly what God designed it to do. Everything.

“Sin broke the cosmos in the deepest and most fundamental way. It left a world that is groaning and in need of redemption.

“Sin is at the root of life’s hardships. Sin is the reason relationships can be so hurtful. Sin is the cause of personal, familial, and international war.

“Sin corrupts our motives, distorts our desires,
and perverts our intentions.

“Every human being is disappointed in some way. Every human being longs for a better world.

“Every human being shops for some truth that will liberate them from the mess. Every human being follows some kind of messiah.

“Jesus’s birth is the ultimate diagnostic of the human condition. It is the moment in history that we should never stop considering.

“We are weak, broken, and in need of redemption. That is why the Savior came.

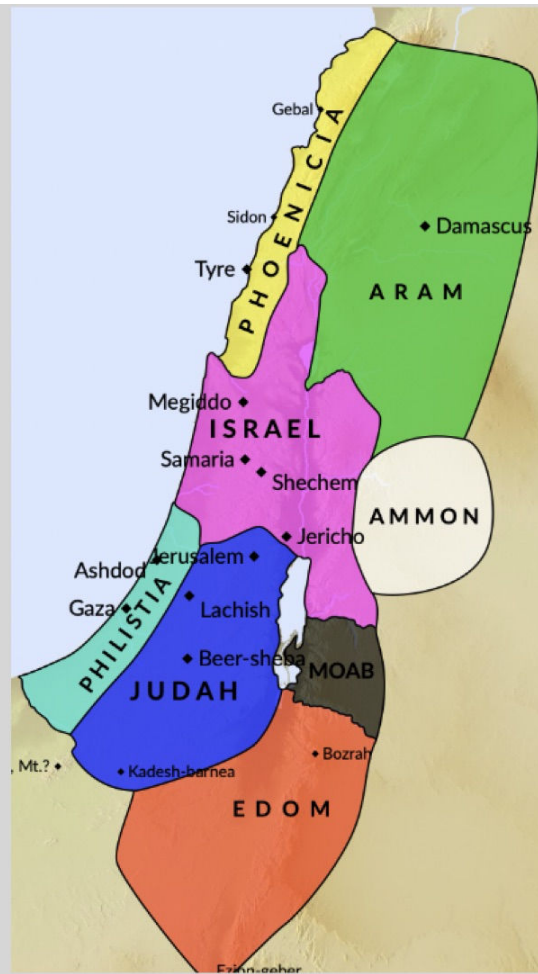
“So we gather and remember, lest in our delusion we forget who we really are, what we so deeply need and what God alone has given us in the birth of his Son.”

Paul Tripp

1. God calls us in real time.
2. God calls us away from fear.
3. God calls us to see our greatest need.
4. God calls us **within a bigger story**.

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son. and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

Matthew 1:22-23



“If you are not firm in faith,
you will not be firm at all.”

Isaiah 7:9b

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14

“The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.”

Isaiah 9:2

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

“Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

“on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

Isaiah 9:6-7

1. God calls us in real time.
2. God calls us away from fear.
3. God calls us to see our greatest need.
4. God calls us within a bigger story.
5. God calls us **to a costly obedience**.

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”

Matthew 1:24-25

Joseph embraced God's call. Will we?

- I am calling you in real time.

- I am calling you in real time.
- I am calling you away from fear.

- I am calling you in real time.
- I am calling you away from fear.
- I am calling you to see your deepest need.

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