



**Title: Jesus is Our Hope**

**Date: December 3, 2023**

**Scripture Text: Matthew 1:18-25**

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

It's hard to believe it's December already. Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is just around the corner. The coming of Christmas is a reminder of the hope the Jews had as they anticipated the coming Messiah and the hope today for those who have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. The hope we have is not wishful thinking ("I hope everything will be okay", "I hope we win the ball game"), but the assurance we have in Jesus Christ and the promises given in God's word. This hope endures hardships, circumstances, and a morally decaying culture. Christmas is a time of hope because Jesus is our hope, He never fails. Let's look at two reasons Jesus is our hope.

### **I. Because of Who He Is ([Matt. 1:18-20, 23](#))**

Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. Betrothal is more than a marriage engagement of today but is not marriage. It is binding to the point that to separate requires a divorce, but the couple is not intimate until after the wedding. The issue is that Mary is pregnant. Her faithfulness to Joseph is in question. Joseph being a righteous man doesn't want to humiliate Mary, but to quietly separate. This seemed like an honorable thing to do.

- As Joseph was considering what to do about Mary, who appeared to him in a dream?
  - What was the angel's message?
  - Who is the child's mother?
  - Who is the child's father?
  - Why is it important to realize both the deity and humanity of Jesus?
- The angel then quotes [Isa. 7:14](#) in [vs. 23](#). What does the name *Immanuel* mean?
  - How was Jesus "God with us"?
- If you were in Joseph's place, how quickly would you have been to believe what the angel said in his dream?
- How can the miraculous conception of Jesus give us hope?
- To experience the hope we have in Jesus, why is it important to take God at His word?
- Describe in your own words who Jesus is and why we can have hope because of Him.

## Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

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## II. **Because of What He Has Done** ([Matt. 1:21](#))

The angel continues his dialogue with Joseph. He tells Joseph that Mary will give birth to a Son and He shall be named Jesus, which means *Jehovah saves*. Jesus will indeed save His people from their sins.

- What do [vss. 24-25](#) describe Joseph did after he awoke?
- Joseph is described as a righteous man in [vs. 19](#). How is obedience related to righteousness?
- What did the angel mean when he stated that the baby would “save His people from their sins”?
  - How did Jesus do that?
- How does Jesus *saving us from our sins* give us hope?
- How can our hope in Jesus affect our celebration of Christmas?
- Why is it important to let others know about the hope we have in Jesus?
- Who can you share your hope in Jesus with this week?

“The birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it.”

Frederick Buechner

“But why did Jesus leave heaven’s glory and come down to live amid earth’s filth and corruption? He came for one reason: to save us from our sins.”

Billy Graham

“The hope that God has provided for you is not merely a wish. Neither is it dependent on other people, possessions, or circumstances for its validity. Instead, biblical hope is an application of your faith that supplies a confident expectation in God's fulfillment of His promises. Coupled with faith and love, hope is part of the abiding characteristics in a believer's life.

John C. Broger