

Immanuel Series
Orthopraxy Part Two
12/18/21
Newport News

Opening

-Luke 1:1-4

-Pray

-new series...(explain)

- Immanuel means “God with us”
- “Are you...” because I am asking the question if you believe in the incarnation of Christ, are you living by that example?
- (shout out to Justin last week – Is Your Joy Complete)

-If Jesus fit into humanity...you and I can certainly try to fit into the lifestyle He wants us to have...a lifestyle defined by incarnational living, being tangibly present for one another in the family of God!

Introduction

-Orthodoxy: authorized, generally accepted doctrines...

-Orthopraxy: living according to those beliefs...

-(**the Bible is true**...believing it is the divinely inspired Word of God...but is it authoritative in your life, giving you moral boundaries, do's and don'ts?)

-Incarnation (orthodoxy)

- the pre-existence of Jesus
- He left Heaven to come to Earth
- He took human form
- He was both fully God and fully man

-The incarnation of Jesus, Immanuel, is more than God's plan for our salvation...this is God's example for us. He expects us to be tangibly present with one another!

-Incarnational Living (orthopraxy)

- Are you physically present with God's family?
- Are you making sacrifices to serve God's family?
- Are you intentionally seeking out spiritually lost people?
- Are you regularly participating in public worship?
- Are you genuinely concerned for the well being of others?

-(talk about how in series we will see the story of Christmas/Incarnation is also about incarnational living!)

-two weeks ago...

- Jesus' family: your wisdom (discipleship)
- Shepherds: your concern (open Heavens)

-tonight...

- **Temple: your service**
- **Magi: your worship**
- **Magi: your generosity**

Your Service

-Luke 2:25-38

-(show the Ezekiel vs. Herod Temple diagram)

- Ezekiel's temple layout is a vision
- Herod's is actual
- Herod's layout moved the altar
- The altar is supposed to be perfectly aligned with God's glory

If the sacrifice of your service is just doing what is convenient for you, just what you can make fit into your life...that's not the right "layout" for incarnational living! *The sacrifice of our service to others is supposed to point people to the sacrifice of Jesus' service to all humanity! What is your sacrifice saying to the world?*

-(talk about when people come and see you serving...the Holy Spirit whispers to them: "just as they are serving you so too Jesus serves you with His death!!!!)

Your Worship

-Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

There are lots of theories on the country of origin for the Magi...two prevailing ones are Persia (modern day Iran) or Sheba (modern day Yemen)... *regardless, both are incredible journeys and when we look at the time line of the visit of the Magi, it very likely took them two years. (talk about how Daniel may have played a part while in captivity).*

-You see the contrast?

- These are men of indescribable wealth
- Can you image how they must have been regaled in dress
- They came from having had an audience with the king
- explain probably two years after Jesus' birth and now in Nazareth
- How encouraging must this moment have been for Mary and Joseph

-Matthew 2:11a... (they entered the house...)

-Have you ever thought about how meaningful and encouraging your worship is to others? Will you commit to "enter the house" to worship Jesus because you understand that there are times when others need to be encouraged by your acts of praise?

Your Generosity

-Matthew 2:9-11 (these gifts made their escape possible)

-Our giving, like our service, can have a prophetic voice!

-gold...His royalty

-frankincense...His divinity (a glittering, odorous gum)

-myrrh...His purpose (a costly perfume, often used in embalming)

-The Magi gave these gifts only believing that He would become the king of the Jews...now that we understand that He is the King of Kings, one with God, and died for our sins...how much of my heart do I need to bring!

-We tithe for many reasons...but first and foremost because every month we have a “magi moment” declaring that He is our King, our Priest, and our Redeemer!

- **He has authority over me...how about you?**
- **He intercedes for me...how about you?**
- **He died to save me...how about you?**

-I am convinced that one of the reasons tithing is so important is because my humanity needs to be reminded with great frequency that I belong to Jesus...who is my King, my Priest, and my Savior!

Band

-If Jesus fit into humanity...you and I can certainly try to fit into the lifestyle He wants us to have...a lifestyle defined by incarnational living, being tangibly present for one another in the family of God!

-It was in December of 1903, that after many attempts, the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were successful in getting their “flying machine” off the ground and into the air at Kill Devil Hiss, OBX. Thrilled over the accomplishment, they telegraphed this message to their sister Katherine: “We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas.” Katherine hurried to the editor of the local newspaper and showed him the message. He glanced at it and said, “How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas.” He totally missed the big news-travel would be forever changed for all of humanity...

-In all you do this Christmas, all the gatherings, gift giving, meals, etc...don't miss the best news of Christmas...

Close

-Isaiah 9:6-7