

## Sermon Series: The God-Man

### Sermon Title: Us and God

#### Sermon Text: **Matthew 1:18-25**

Close your eyes! And picture in your mind...

What does he look like? What details are essential? And why?

We just sang "Do You Hear What I Hear." There is a very strange line in the song, "A child, a child, shivers in the cold let us bring him silver & gold..."

**Why not bring him a blanket... or some warm clothes?**

Scripture tells us what the gifts were that the wise men brought to Jesus, but it doesn't tell us why they brought such gifts! ("The Star" - Birthday party/Baby shower)

**When these wise men envisioned Jesus in their minds, they saw a king, not a mere child!** That's why they brought these gifts! They were never intended to be a birthday present or baby shower gift, they were gifts offered to a king!

**We spend a lot of time at Christmas thinking about the appropriateness of the gifts we decide to give to the people in our lives?** Don't we?

Growing up in a divorced (and geographically separated) family it was always interesting the kinds of gifts I would receive from certain distant relatives!

They had a very different picture in their minds of who I was and what was appropriate for me at any given age/stage of my life!

So again I ask, "When you picture Jesus, what do you see/who do you see?"

**Do you tend to see Jesus as... the baby in the manger,** the man who taught disciples on the Sea, the man who was crucified upon a cross, the man who sat and ate with his disciples in Jerusalem after he rose from the dead?

**Or do you see Jesus as... the Creator of the universe,** the eternal King of Kings, Lord over all creation, the Lamb who sits on heaven's throne, the One described in Revelation who will come again on a white horse making war...?

There are no right or wrong answers here! Jesus is all of these descriptions, but if all we know is one side of "the God-man" **then we will not only misunderstand Him, we will also not respond to Him as we ought!**

Jesus is "Immanuel" – "God with us!" Divinity with humanity! God dwelling with man, but also God dwelling in man without compromise!

**We can say "He gets us" only because He is fully God and fully man!**

As fully man:

- Jesus probably did shiver in the cold and was in need of a blanket!
- Jesus, as a man, needed His mother!
- **Jesus, as a man, cried real tears** - I'm sure as a baby, but also as an adult at the graveside of a friend!
- Jesus was hungry – I'm sure as a nursing child, but also when He was in the wilderness fasting for 40 days and Satan came to tempt Him.
- **Jesus felt rejection, loss, & pain** - when Peter denied Him, when followers turned away, when He suffered the crucifixion!

But this same Jesus who is fully man is also fully God:

- Who, though He shivered in the cold, also created the sun, the stars, and the warmth that they bring us!
- **This same Jesus who cried real tears, is also the One who will wipe every tear away** and cause there to be no more death, nor mourning, nor pain.
- This same Jesus who cried at the graveside of His friend Lazarus is the same Jesus who rose him from the dead!
- **The same Jesus who was hungry, is the same Jesus who fed 5 thousand, and who is Himself the very "Bread of Life" who eternally satisfies!**
- The same Jesus who felt rejection, loss, & pain is the One who is "the resurrection & the life" and anyone who believes in Him will never die!

**You can't get a clear picture of who this Jesus really is, unless you see Him as He truly is - both "fully God" and "fully man"!**

You also can't get a clear picture of Jesus if you only see Him through the lens of the manger (Christmas)! You also must see Him through the lens of the cross (Easter)! That's why both the manger & the cross are on this stage!

**You can't have the cross without the manger, & the manger loses it's true worth without the cross!** Jesus was born to die, but His death gives us a chance at rebirth! So we not only need one, we need both!

Jesus is "Immanuel" – God with us! Christmas reminds us of this reality!

**But Jesus is also the reason we can be "with God"!** This Christmas let's remember what we are celebrating – "God with us", but also "us with God" made possible because of the manger... the cross... this God-Man - Jesus!

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