



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Christmas Unpolished Tsaddiq – Matthew 1:18-25

Read/Reflect

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Imagine what it might have been like for Joseph to receive news that Mary was pregnant. What were his options? What might his emotions have been? Who would he have gone to for support?
2. Matthew reflects Isaiah's prophecy in saying the baby born to Mary & Joseph would be called Immanuel, "God with us." Would that have been any comfort to them in their situation? How does the name speak to you? (Matthew 1:23)

Explore

3. When you have been confronted by surprising and perplexing circumstances how have you coped? How are you able to remain faithful to God in your struggles?
4. What does it mean to you to be "righteous?"

<input type="checkbox"/> Always right	<input type="checkbox"/> Trying hard	<input type="checkbox"/> Be faithful to Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/> Doing justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Being 'nice'	<input type="checkbox"/> It's impossible
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow the rules	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow God's will	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
5. What are the implications for being made righteous through Jesus alone and how do they affect you personally:

<input type="checkbox"/> I am not my own.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can try to be good.
<input type="checkbox"/> It doesn't matter what I do.	<input type="checkbox"/> I know God's will.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am made right with God.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am learning to trust Jesus.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am right because I believe.	<input type="checkbox"/> I surrender my life to Jesus.
6. Joseph's righteousness cannot satisfy God's plan for salvation until he surrenders his own ideas of righteousness to God's way. Can you share a time in your life when you've had to learn that hard lesson?
7. We usually think about the wonder and warmth that the birth of a Saviour brings to the world. Why is it important, or at least helpful, to look at the distress and disarray that Jesus' birth brings into the world?

Pray

- Praise God that "He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love."