ADVENT #2 - LOVE FROM THE ANGELS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 1



Virgin Conception: How does the denial of Jesus' virgin birth affect the gospel message? So what if Jesus had 2 biological human parents? What if Jesus had no human parents? Discuss the ramifications of these questions.

Mary: "She was found with child of the Holy Spirit." Matthew plainly (without the greater detail found in the Gospel of Luke) presents the virginal conception and subsequent birth of Jesus. However, the virgin birth was difficult for people to believe back then, even as it is also doubted now by some.

🕈 What verses would you use to support the prophecy and the fulfillment of the virgin birth of Jesus? Discuss your answers.

We should consider what a great trial this was for a godly young woman like Mary, and for Joseph her betrothed. "Her situation was the most distressing and humiliating that can be conceived. Nothing but the fullest consciousness of her own integrity, and the strongest confidence in God, could have supported her in such trying circumstances, where her reputation, her honor, and her life were at stake." (Clarke) What additional thoughts do you have about this situation?

Joseph: "Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly" (Matt 1:19)

Joseph her husband: The previous verse told us that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. This comment shows that even though they were not formally married, Joseph was still considered Mary's husband by betrothal.

Being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example: Being a just man, Joseph knew that if Mary had been unfaithful to him it would be impossible to go through with the marriage. Yet his nature as a just man also did not want to make this an unnecessary hardship or stigma upon Mary. Joseph made the understandable decision to seek a quiet divorce. What are your thoughts about the decision itself, and the manner it was going to be done?

Discuss verses 20-21 about how Joseph was convinced not to divorce Mary.

JESUS as Savior: "You shall call his name JESUS" The name JESUS means "The Salvation of Yahweh.") As was later said by the Apostle Peter, there is no other name under heaven by which men must be saved (Acts 4:12). "For He will save His people from their sins" The angelic messenger briefly and eloquently stated the work of the coming Messiah, Jesus. He will come as a savior, and come to save His people from their sins. This description of the work of Jesus reminds us that Jesus meets us in our sin, but His purpose is to save us from our sins. Discuss the link in many false religions with the denial of the depravity of man and the denial of the deity of Christ.

JESUS as Immanuel: This title of Jesus refers both to His deity (God with us) and His identification Discuss the following implications of the name Immanuel:	and nearness to man (God with us).
It shows how low God bent down to save man; He added the nature of one of His own creatures to H weaknesses, frailties, and dependency that the creature experiences.	Iis own divine nature, accepting the
🖋 It shows what a great miracle it was that God could add a human nature to His own and still remai	n God.
It shows that we can come to Him; if He has come to us, then we can come to Him. If Jesus Christ be any question or hesitancy. Whoever you may be, you need no priest or intercessor to introduce you t you.	'God with us," let us come to Him without o God, for God has introduced himself to
6 Our response to the Love of God: To receive the love of God that is being offered one must respond rejection of others. 2) Be willing to submit to the authority of the Father. 3) Be willing to admit your ov	like Joseph . 1) Be willing to embrace the on sinfulness.
What is it about the rejection of others that makes it so difficult to be a follower of Christ? Share some specific ways that you are afraid of others rejection.	
What areas do you find it most daunting to submit to God?	
Why is it that we do not want to admit that we are sinful?	
What were the circumstances that led up to you giving your life to Christ? Would you be willing to share with group your salvation story?	