

December 25, 2022

Matthew 1:23 "Immanuel, which means, 'God with us.'" In the middle of the name you have the little word "with." The name says there is someone "with" someone. On the two sides of "with" you have two parties. On the one side, "us." We are people like Joseph.

In our text, Joseph faces a crisis. Mary is pregnant before their marriage is consummated. How can Joseph remain honorable and, at the same time, protect Mary? Marriage to Mary would be a tacit admission of his own guilt. Yet, he wants to avoid shaming her publically.

Joseph is in a crisis moment. Any crisis, is both a threat and an opportunity. It is a moment when the flow of future events, for better or for worse, is determined. What should Joseph do? What guides us when we find ourselves in a crisis moment?

- Follow Joseph's example of listening to timely guidance.
 - Allow God's word to guide you.
 - Trust God's timely word and obey.
- Hear God's timeless Word to you today.
 - Immanuel (this is who Jesus is)
 - Jesus (this is what He does).
- Choose to trust Immanuel. His name is Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- What does God's timeless word ("God with us"; "God saves") mean for you today?
- How have you received God's timely guidance this past year?
- Do you easily trust God's word to you? Why or why not?

WILLINGDON CHURCH ELDERS

Phil Balzer	Alfred Gomez	Mark Loewen	Norm Schmidt
John Best	Ray Harms-Wiebe	Dave Marshall	Ed Thiessen
Roman Bondartchouk	Ruben Heyn	Ken Redekopp	Wayne Wiebe
Ken Dyck	Danny Lee	Rick Reimer	
Jim Eisenhauer	Paul Lee	Vince Reimer	

Please continue to pray for the elders.

If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.