



DIVINITY

FROM ETERNITY TO THE CRADLE

Divinity in an “Unlikely” Place

Matt 1:18-23, Isa 7:14, Heb 2:17

- Matt. 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed [engaged] to Joseph, **before they came together** she was **found** to be with child **from the Holy Spirit**.¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to **put her to shame, resolved** to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**."²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus [Yahweh is salvation], for he will **save his people from their sins**."²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:²³ "Behold, the **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**" (**which means, God with us**).

1. *Mary was “found” to be pregnant. Imagine what that meant in the 1st century Jewish culture. “Divinity in an Unlikely Place” was first found in the womb of a woman, the mother of Jesus.*

- *Matt 1:18 When his mother Mary had been betrothed [engaged] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit... ,²⁰ "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ...²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

- *Mary learned the meaning of “Immanuel,” very quickly. 8 days after Jesus’s birth, this prophecy was spoken to her by Simeon in the Temple.*
- Lk. 2:34-35 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is **appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel**, and for a **sign that is opposed**³⁵ (and a **sword will pierce through your own soul** also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." (ESV)

2. *Why did Jesus call himself “Son of man” so often?
The second place we find “Divinity in an Unlikely Place,” is in a human being who walked among us.*

A. *“Connect the dots” in OT prophecy.*

— *Dan 7:13-14*

B. *Hard to see Jesus as “one of us.” John 1:14*

— *Washing feet?*

C. *But, on a human level, Jesus was one of us. How better to understand us than to be us?*

— *Heb 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

3. *Scripture reveals Jesus had two natures. No other way for us to have a savior. No better way for Jesus to be our “Immanuel.”*

A. Fully Divine - Son of God (last week's sermon). Divinity.

— *John 1:1-4. Col 2:13-14*

B. Fully Human - Son of man – but wo sin.

— *1 Peter 2:22, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 John 3:5*

C. Two natures = Savior of the world.

— *Matt. 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (ESV)*

4. *Why did Jesus have to be born of a virgin to accomplish God's plan to save humanity from their sins?*

A. *So Adam's sin nature* was not passed through to Jesus:

- *Ps 51:5 ..., sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”*
- *Rom. 5:12, 19 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, ...¹⁹ and so death spread to all men because all sinned... Job 14:4, 25:4, Matt 2:21*

B. *Divinity had to be found in the human representative*, born of a woman, so he could die on the cross for our sins. Gen 3:15.

- *And the Word became flesh... John 1:14*
- *Heb 2:14-18*

- *Why become one of us? He had to be fully human or he could not die on the cross in our place.*

A. *God is just.*

- *Heb. 2:14 Because God's children are human beings-- made of flesh and blood-- the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die,...¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.*
(NLT)

Who made this mess? Who should clean it up? But they can't! Who will step in to do what they are responsible for? 2 Cor 5:17-20



*Which one is guilty? Both are!
God has declared Jesus to be
guilty on our behalf. 2 Cor 5:21.*



Call to action:

1. *The final place where “Divinity is in an Unlikely Place” is through salvation. The Holy Spirit is born in the heart of a believer at salvation. Thereafter, He dwells within us:*
 - *Have you surrendered your heart and life to Jesus? If not, why not come forward today and pray a prayer of surrender to Jesus? The HS will be your gift!*
2. *Have you “learned” that Jesus is your Immanuel – God with us? Do you need to be reminded of this spiritual truth? Would you like to be prayed over today? Come forward so we can do so.*
3. *Has God revealed himself to you through your personal struggles? Will you ask God to show you ways that you can be a good steward of His presence in your struggles by sharing your story with someone in their own struggles?*