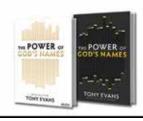


# THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES Sermon Outline



### **MESSAGE SIX: IMMANUEL**

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** Matthew 1:21-23 (NASB) 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Isaiah 7:14 (NASB) Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6 (NASB) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

### **MESSAGE GOAL:**

The goal of this message on God's name Immanuel is to help you understand that He is always with you and to help you trust that He has provided the way for you to have peace with God.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

A man and his younger brother walked into a bar. The man had struggled with alcohol abuse but had overcome his habit. Now he wanted to share what he had learned with his brother so that he wouldn't make the same mistakes. The man said to his brother, "I want to show you something." He reached into his pocket and took out a little case. He asked the bartender to put two glasses on the counter, one filled with water and the other with liquor. He opened up his little case and pulled out two worms. He took one worm out and put it in the water, and the worm began to move around the water. He took the other worm out and put it in the alcohol, but seconds later that worm stopped moving. The worm in the water was still fluttering around; the worm in the booze had died. He then looked at his brother and said, "Do you see that?" His brother said, "Yes." The man asked, "Do you get the point?" His brother said, "Yes, I do." Just to make sure, the man asked, "OK, so what is the point?" To which his younger brother said, "I think it's clear that if you drink a lot of booze, you won't have a lot of worms." Obviously, the young man had missed the point!

He's like many of us today who've missed the point of who Jesus is, why He came, and what it has to do with us. In fact, the true identity of Jesus Christ is under assault today. Over the years our culture has redefined Jesus and turned Him into a soft, mild, peaceful man who may have had a special connection with God, but that's it. And with the recent "discovery" of the gnostic Gospels, different portraits of Jesus have infiltrated pop culture and introduced so much confusion that people don't even know what to think of Jesus anymore. Myth has replaced biblical truth, so Christians must be equipped to share the great news about Jesus—God with us.

#### **SERMON POINTS:**

### 1. JESUS CHRIST, AS IMMANUEL, IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

- Jesus' birth was prophesied hundreds of years before He was born (Isaiah 7:14).
  - God spoke through the prophet Isaiah when he foretold that a young virgin would give birth to a totally unique Son.
  - Isaiah even gave the Son's name, Immanuel, which means God with us.
- The birth of Immanuel reminds us of Jesus' unique identity as the God-Man (Isaiah 9:6).
  - Jesus the child was born to Mary in a stable several thousand years ago, proving that He is human.
  - God the Father gave us His only Son—the eternal Son of God—to live among the human beings He created.

## 2. IMMANUEL REVEALS TO YOU THE CHARACTER OF GOD THE FATHER.

- Jesus came as Immanuel to do God the Father's will (Hebrews 10:5-7).
  - The Old Testament sacrificial system was never meant to take away sin but to help people see their need for a Savior.
  - God the Father never merely wanted people's bulls and goats; He wanted their faith in His forgiveness and grace.
  - God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, and prepared a body for Him through the virgin birth.

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- Jesus lived as Immanuel, God and Man, and through His sacrifice provided the way to remove people's sin forever.
- Jesus, our Immanuel, is the exact representation of God's image and divinity (Colossians 1:15).
  - Jesus was not just a baby in a manger but perfect Deity, the Creator, the second Person of the Trinity (Hebrews 1:1-4).
  - Jesus left his eternal existence in heaven to dwell on earth with the people He created (John 1:1,14).
- Immanuel is God with us, the all-powerful King, and the only way to eternal peace (Isaiah 9:6-7).
  - Isaiah said the government would rest on Immanuel's shoulders—that He is the sovereign Ruler over all human and spiritual rulers.
  - Immanuel is the Wonderful Counselor, which
    means that He has the power over creation
    and the laws of nature to work miracles for His
    people, and He knows how to bring a solution
    and comfort in the most difficult circumstances.
  - Immanuel is the Mighty God, which means that Jesus Christ is the all-powerful God incarnate.
  - Immanuel is the Eternal Father, or the Father of eternity, which means that He is outside time and space.
  - Immanuel is the Prince of Peace, which means that only He can reconcile sinful human beings with a holy God, thereby giving eternal peace.

### 3. . TRUST JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR IMMANUEL..

- Immanuel came not just so that God could experience what it feels like to be human but to save humans from their sin.
  - Jesus cares about our struggles in life, but ultimately, He wants to reconcile us to God.
  - All pain, struggle, conflict, disease, and death can be tracked back to the original sin, the rebellion against God in the Garden of Eden.
  - We must put our faith in Jesus, who has reversed the penalty and effects of sin in our lives.
- Immanuel deserves our worship.
  - As God, lesus Christ deserves our worship.
  - God the Father has exalted Jesus above every power in heaven and on earth, and one day every knee will bow before Him (Philippians 2:9-11).

### **SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:**

IMMANUEL IS OUR PRINCE OF PEACE. International conflicts, civil war, and hatred seem to rule in our world. Unrest even hits close to home when interpersonal strife plagues our own lives. But the most difficult turbulence to endure is when we have no peace with our Creator. Whether or not we acknowledge it, nothing will destroy someone more from the inside out than a lack of peace with God. We know what peace is. Peace is calm instead of conflict, harmony instead of chaos. And the One who give us peace is Immanuel, Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace. He is the one who can put together what's unraveling in our world. He is the One who can speak peace in the middle of a storm. But we can't think of Him as just the kid in the cradle without recognizing that He's the King and Mighty God, the only One who can give us peace with God.

IMMANUEL IS OUR SUBSTITUTE. Let's say we all went to California, we got in the water, and we were going to race to Hawaii. Well, you may swim farther than I do, but we will all be in the same trouble because we're all going to drown. You may be a better swimmer than I am, but Hawaii is just too far away. Or let's say we all had a rock-throwing contest, and we wanted to throw a rock to the North Pole. We all got our rocks and lined up. You may throw your rock farther than I throw my rock, but all rocks will fall short of the goal or the standard of the North Pole. Likewise, God is high and holy, and His standard is perfection! It doesn't matter how good you are. You may be better than me, but you're not as good as God. We need somebody who was perfect and who could connect God and human beings. We need Immanuel, the One who came to be our substitute, to give us peace with God.

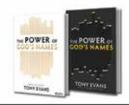
IMMANUEL GIVES CHRISTMAS ITS MEANING: The story is told of a man who went to get a Christmas present for his dad. He came across an exotic, talking parakeet that could speak five languages and could sing "The Yellow Rose of Texas" standing on one leg. He said, "I've never seen a parakeet like this in my life. I've got to send it to my dad for Christmas." So he bought the exotic bird and sent it to his dad. A couple of days later the man said, "Dad, did you get my gift?" His dad said, "Yeah, I got your gift." The man said, "How do like my gift, Dad?" And his dad said, "It was delicious." The man's dad completely missed the point of the gift. In the same way, many people miss the point of why Immanuel came. Jesus Christ paid a high price, not so that you can eat turkey dinner, have a family celebration, and open

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expensive presents at Christmas. He paid the price so that you can understand that He is Immanuel, the God-Man, who wants to give you eternal peace.

### **BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:**

WORD STUDY ON IMMANUEL (GOD WITH US). In Psalm 46:8-12 the psalmist used a phrase that is similar to "God with us" when he declared, "The LORD of hosts is with us." The psalmist announced his confidence in God's ability to deliver His people from their enemies. In Isaiah 7:14 the proper name Immanuel points to the child who would symbolize God's presence with His people. And God's presence wasn't meant just to comfort His people but to deliver them from their sin. While many people in Jesus' time expected Him to deliver Israel from the oppressive Roman dominion, Jesus' mission would provide the means by which they would be delivered from the dominion of sin and its eternal consequences.

THE FULFILLED PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH 7:14. When Matthew wrote his Gospel, the Holy Spirit inspired him to apply the prophet's words in Isaiah 7:14 to Jesus Christ. So Matthew 1:23 is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. But what did Isaiah's words mean to him and to the people of his time? Several prophecies in the Bible have several fulfillments, one fulfillment during the time in which the prophecy was spoken and a final fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The fact that Isaiah 7:14 is followed by verses 15-17, which don't apply to Jesus Christ, means that Isaiah also had another woman and child in mind. But whom? The most likely interpretation is that Isaiah, who prophesied to the royal house of David, had in mind an unmarried virgin in the royal family who would soon get married and have a child. Though her child wouldn't literally be Immanuel, God with us, his birth, which would confirm God's words through His prophet Isaiah, would show that God was with His people. At the time of Isaiah, God's people feared the mighty Assyrian army would attack. But God wanted to show them that He was in complete control. Even though King Ahaz's lack of trust in God would eventually lead to Assyria's attack on Israel, God also wanted to show that ultimately, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come to deal not only with our earthly enemies but also with sin and its consequences.

### **SERMON LINES:**

This sermon will help you believe the baby in the manger is Immanuel, God with us.

This sermon will help you trust that Immanuel alone has provided the way for you to have peace with God.

### **QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:**

"Please notice the distinction: the child is born, but the Son is given because the Son existed before the child was born."

"The virgin had a child, but the child that the virgin had existed as the Son before the virgin ever got pregnant. So the Son wasn't born; the Son was given."

"The essence of Christmas is Immanuel, the name God with us! If you missed that, you missed Christmas. All you wind up with is fancy songs and fancy programs and fancy events with no deity."

"The issue of Christmas is the Deity of God in a person."

"Let me tell you about the kid in the cradle who is the King, who can bear the government, the rule of your life on His shoulder. He is not only the Wonderful Counselor; He is the Mighty God who can empower you to pull off what the good advice told you ought to do."

"He is the Prince of Peace. He is the One who can put together what's unraveling in your world. He is the One who can speak peace in the middle of a storm."

"Our problems today can all be tracked back to sin. Sin is rebellion against that standard of God."

"Unless you are delivered from sin, you won't be delivered in life."

"God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ to deal with the issue of sin, sin's penalty, sin's power, and sin's presence in eternity."

"The Jesus of the Bible came to identify our sins, forgive us for our sins, give us victory over our sins, and forever give us a home totally absent of sin."

"Only Jesus Christ deserves your total worship. He deserves your total praise. Worship Him as your Savior."

"Let's not be ashamed to welcome Him, to worship Him, and then to witness about Him because His name is Immanuel."

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