

Children’s sermon: What’s in a name?

1. What does your name mean? [If you don’t know you can probably ask your parents]
 - o My name is Neal... the name Neal means “champion.”
 - o Daniel = “God is my judge,” Zachary = “The Lord remembers,” Olivia = “One who is peaceful,”
 - o Titus = “A great defender,” Emma = “One who is complete,” Skyler = “One who is learned”
2. What about Jesus’ name... do you know what His name means?
 - o **(Matthew 1:21)** tells us that Jesus’ name means “Savior” – Why is that a good name for Jesus?
 - o Do you and I have any sins? **(Romans 3:23 – All have sinned...)**
 - o Have we ever been upset with our... Teacher/friend/brother or sister/parent?
 - o Do we ever... Whine/complain/disobey/angry?
 - o Yes! We need Jesus Christ. The Savior of our sins. The name Christ means “anointed one”
3. Jesus Christ = the one and only “anointed Savior” of the world.
 - o “Christian” = One who believes in the forgiveness of all sins from Jesus Christ
 - o His name means everything to me, because He took away all my sins away on the cross. **(John 3:16)**

Introduction: Grace, mercy, and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

- “Intervention” = word that is probably most associated with serious problems of addiction
 - o It is needed when something, maybe a substance, totally controls one’s life
 - o When it comes to sin, understand it goes beyond addiction, sin is a part and serious problem of everyday life
 - o On our Own vs. Sin, we’re helpless... we NEED an intervention!

THEME: YOUR GOD INTERVENES!

1. With the **WORD** He gave you
 - a. Today’s service focus is *The Conception and Birth of Jesus* – recall the history as to *why* this is necessary
 - i. Garden of Eden (fall into sin) How would have you reacted as God? Disobedient children...
 1. God could have... destroyed them, started over, but **God Intervened... with His Word**
 2. How? God made a promise to Adam and Eve... to send a Savior for their sin **(Gen 3:15,16)**
 3. The Word of God for this morning = His promise fulfilled...

NIV Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. **20** But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." **24** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25** But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

THEME: YOUR GOD INTERVENES!

1. With the **WORD** He gave
 - a. Old Testament promises of a Savior... not only to Adam and Eve, but to Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and down the line – that God’s promises were absolute truth
 - b. **1:18** The birth of Christ – historical account from God, as announced to Mary in **(Luke 1:35)**
 - i. *human* mother (Mary), *divine* father (Holy Spirit); the Son of God already existed = eternal **(John 1:1-3)**
 1. OT refers to pre-incarnate Jesus often as “The Angel of the LORD” -the Captain or Chief of the armies of God -example Joshua near Jericho **(Joshua 5:13-15)**
 2. This One - being born of Mary + Holy Spirit = Jesus Christ (True Man + True God) **(Col. 2:9)**
 3. **1:20 “Joseph – Son of David”** (both Mary and Joseph were descendants of King David)
 - a. God promised the Savior would be a member of David’s family tree
 - b. **(Luke 20:41-44)** [David’s son – true man, yet also David’s Lord – true God]

- ii. **1:18** “Pledged” or “betrothed” – seems to give people a lot of problems (ammo for the skeptics?)
 - 1. “Betrothal” is NOT the same as our modern “engagement” - What’s the difference?
 - a. Our engagement – is a promise to marry (breaking that promise is a sin)
 - b. Their betrothal – considered married but did not live together or have intercourse yet (betrothal only could be broken by a regular divorce) **1:19 “husband”**
- c. **1:20** See how... **Your God Intervenes!** Necessity of vision – Joseph gone on to divorce Mary... some results?
 - 1. Mary gives birth to Jesus- Mary would have branded as a harlot – when she really wasn’t!
 - 2. Jesus’ brothers and sisters wouldn’t have been born – God used some of them later as witnesses
 - 3. Understanding the importance of God’s intervention here **1:20**... and as it relates in your life!

Your God Intervenes – With the WORD He gave you... in the BIBLE to also aide YOU...

2. In the **CHOICES** that face you

- a. Example of **Joseph**
 - i. From human conclusion or standpoint – Mary was unfaithful (adultery) -How would you react?
 - ii. What choice did Joseph have according to Mosaic Law? (**Deut. 22:22-24**)
 - iii. **1:19 “public disgrace”** –death by stoning or public divorce
 - 1. He was a “righteous man” – in other words (he showed amazing compassion and mercy)
 - 2. Joseph is a Christian example for us! (**Proverbs 10:12**) – not our own sins, forgiveness of others
 - 3. **1:24-25 “did what the Lord had commanded him...”**
 - 4. Examples of obedience in both Joseph and Mary! -Christian parents that bow to Christ’s will
- b. Example of **Jesus Christ**
 - i. Next Sunday (Lord willing) – we’ll hear some occasions when Jesus was tempted by Satan
 - 1. Satan had twisted God’s Word to tempt Jesus to fall into sin. But how did Jesus respond?
 - 2. **“It is written...”** -Jesus was teaching us by His divine example that:
 - a. **Your God Intervenes – with the WORD He gave you** (to resist the devil and flesh)
 - b. **Your God Intervenes – in the CHOICES that face you** (to use His Word as a guide)
 - c. Jesus said of Himself and His mission (**John 6:38-40**)
- c. Example of a **Christian** – a Child of God, a brother of Jesus Christ... (That’s YOU!)
 - i. Every choice we make ought to be DIRECTED and GUIDED by God!
 - 1. We ask: How is it possible to make good Christian choices?
 - 2. (**Psalm 119:103-106**) A lamp and light to guide us - in a dark world (**John 1:4-5**)
(ex. phone call message denying existence of God– he doesn’t know or forgot about God’s message)
 - ii. Decisions about... our lives, conduct, attitude towards anyone or anything, relationship with our spouse, children, boyfriend or girlfriend, friends or enemies (Choices in our Christian lives; need His direction!)
 - iii. How? One method: ask if any decision is either...“**Helpful** or **harmful** to my soul or the soul of others.”
 - 1. Example: –the sin of *sexual impurity* whether inside or outside of marriage
 - a. The world and our flesh tells us if it feels good it therefore must be ok (Drugs? Murder?)
 - b. God’s answer? (**1 Thess. 4:3-5**) NOT His will... HARMFUL to your soul/and other’s
 - c. God’s answer? (**Ephesians 4:17-19**) Live NOT as they do... How?
 - 2. Example: *-leading children* (whether our own or not our own, to Christ – pic. cover of bulletin)
 - a. The world and our flesh tell us in a child’s own time he or she will decide for themselves
 - b. God’s answer is that our sinful nature as already decided!
(Rom. 3:23 – All have sinned... + Rom. 8:7 –The carnal mind...)
 - c. But God Intervenes! And GIVES us what to believe and teach... (**Deut. 4:1-2; 6-9**)
(God’s Word is where our creeds come from – as confessed by faith earlier)

Your God Intervenes – With the WORD He gave you... to aide you in the CHOICES that face you!

3. **Your God Intervenes** - Because of the **NAME** which saves you

- a. **1:21** “Jesus” = Savior, “Christ” = Anointed one, “Jesus Christ” = God’s Anointed Savior for the sins of the world
 - i. In a life of sin... Your Triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) lovingly intervenes. God steps in. **1:22-23**
 - 1. We have a God who is actively with us. (**Matt 28:20**)
 - 2. We have a God who names Himself as separate from other Gods. (**John 14:6**)
 - 3. We have a God who intervenes to save us! (**Phil 2:5-11**)
- b. On our Own vs. Sin, we’re helpless... we NEED an intervention! Praise the one and only Triune God...
 - 1. He intervenes - with His Holy WORD that He gave you
 - 2. He intervenes - to direct you in the many CHOICES that face you
 - 3. He intervenes – through Jesus Christ, who has saved you and gives you eternal life! **AMEN.**