



Why We Need Christmas

Matthew 1:18–21; Matthew 1:24; John 10:10; John 4:13–14; Romans 6:12–14, 23

Bottom Line:

We need Christmas, because we need a Savior.

Introduction:

Matthew 1:18 (NIV), “This is how the birth of **Jesus** the **Messiah** came about:”

I don’t want to ruin your Christmas, but Jesus’ name is not Jesus. Jesus came from a Latin translation from Greek that was transliterated from Hebrew. The direct Hebrew to English translation of Yeshua is Joshua not Jesus.

Joshua literally means “Jehovah is Salvation.”

Struggle:

The ancient Jews expected their Messiah to be a **Joshua**. They wanted him to be a warrior to read their land of invaders.

Matthew 1:18-21 (NIV84), “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. 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**. 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. 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.’”

Psychology teaches us that our physical needs are much more important than our spiritual needs. Physical needs get the attention because they are pressing.

Algebra 2, the boss, my marriage, my singleness, my mom, my joblessness, my depression, and my addiction are all pressing needs that need urgent attention, but my sin?

We often think, “My sin isn’t the problem. Her sin, his sin, their sin is the problem.” We agree sin is a problem, just not our sin. We need saving from the other guy’s sin.

Truth:

Do you know why many are not moved when we hear God sent Jesus to save us from our sin? Because we hear Matthew 1:21 wrong. It says:

“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people **from their sins.**”

Instead, we hear the following:

“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will **forgive** his people **of their sins.**”

We reduce **Christmas** to **forgiveness.**

If Jesus and Christmas are only about forgiveness, you have missed the full message of Christmas. Jesus came to save us from, to deliver us from, the slavery of sin.

Study John 10:10; John 4:13-14; Romans 6:12-14, 23.

Conclusion:

Through Christ you can have a new master. Jesus broke the power of sin. He lived a life without sin, and he offers his sinless life to those who will receive it.

If you are a Christian whose religious experience is an endless cycle of trying, failing, and forgiveness, maybe you just need to be told...Sin is not your Master.

Matthew 1:21, “He will save his people **from their sins.**”

Application:

If you are a Jesus follower, do the following every morning:

Declare: Sin has no power over me. Sin is not my master.

Decide: Sin will not rule over me. Christ has set me free from the power of sin.

Devote: God, today, I devote my hands, feet, eyes, ears, and mind to you. I offer myself to you, O Lord to do your will today.

If you are not a Jesus follower, do the following:

Become one. Repent of your sins and place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.

Next Steps

- Memorize Matthew 1:21
- If you are a follower of Jesus: Declare, Decide, and Devote (see sermon notes) every morning.
- If you are not a follower of Jesus: Become one.