Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

Relying on my own eyes and senses, I trust what is false instead of trusting that Christ is God's Son, my Savior. **God's Word gives me the truth that Jesus is Immanuel, God with me, my Savior.**

Bible Words

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

Shared Proof

Before ultrasounds and modern diagnostics, knowing the gender of a baby was impossible. Yet, an angel revealed this information to both Mary and Joseph. And the angel told both to name the baby Jesus. Imagine the affirmation and joy they must have shared when they told each other these details! In faith, they moved ahead as a couple, trusting God and His mercy for them and their special child.

An Angel Visits Joseph
Matthew 1:18–25

Whew! Joseph was between a rock and a hard place. Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant, and he was not the father.

Betrothal agreements were more formal contracts than modern-day engagements. The bride and her family received presents, a dowry or bride-price, and gave money or goods to the new household, which returned to the bride if the couple divorced. Betrothed persons were called husband and wife. If her betrothed died, a woman became a widow. Couples did not live together or have sexual intimacy until after the wedding.

Still, a pregnancy could result in marriage if the man admitted parentage. If not, the law allowed two other options: divorce or death. Joseph showed his kindness and love for Mary by deciding to divorce her quietly. But then, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

The angel told Joseph not to fear taking Mary as his wife. The angel said Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit and would bear a son, whom he should name Jesus because "He will save His people from their sins" (v, 21). *Jesus* means "Yahweh saves" or Yahweh is salvation."

Fulfilled Prophecies

The Gospel of Matthew says these circumstances fulfilled prophecies from Isaiah 7:14: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Matthew goes on to say that *Immanuel* means "God with us." What a perfect name for our Lord and Savior!

Through Immanuel's suffering and death on the cross, we receive God's favor and eternal blessing. Through faith, we have confidence that God is with us always and present through His Word and Sacraments.

Prayer

Lord God, send Your Holy Spirit to enlighten us and show us the truth of Your Word. Keep us Yours forever in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Growing in CHRIST

Cross Explorations