

Sermon Study Guide – December 17th, 2017:

Today's Focus - "Expecting Emmanuel"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ What do you expect next weekend to look like? What don't you expect it to look like?
- ◆ Emmanuel = "God with us". What is significant about this name for us? How do we "Expect Emmanuel"?

2) Today's Message: Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



How does today's sermon show you how God wants you to live your life? (i.e. What good works does this motivate us to do?)

Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. What is the context of our sermon text? What was going on?
2. What did King Ahaz expect in the face of this crisis? What did it lead him to do?
3. While we aren't the same as unbelieving Ahaz, when are our expectations similar to his? What's the problem with such expectations?
4. Why could "Expecting Emmanuel" have made a difference for King Ahaz's expectations?
5. Why did "Expecting Emmanuel" make a difference for Joseph from our first reading?
6. Why will "Expecting Emmanuel" make a difference for us, this Christmas and always?

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ Consider today's sermon text from the perspective of the faithful believers under Ahaz. What would they have expected because of their king? What comfort would the sign of Emmanuel have held for them?
- ◆ In what ways would it be proper to call the sign of Emmanuel a sign of judgment for Ahaz? How can the Christ-child still be a sign of judgment today? How can we be sure he doesn't become that for us?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Mt. 1:18-25, Eph. 3:14-22

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Wednesday: Psalm 23

Thursday: Isaiah 43:1-13

Friday: 2 Kings 16, Isaiah 7:1-9

Saturday: *review* Is. 7:10-14