



why CHRISTMAS?

MATTHEW 1:18-25

WHY THE VIRGIN BIRTH?

DECEMBER 17, 2023

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Joey continued our Advent series this week, tackling the question, "Why the Virgin Birth?" The virgin birth refers to Jesus being conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, free from the curse of sin.

He stressed that the Virgin Birth demonstrates God's power to make things new. God has the power to create life in Mary's womb, to raise that life from the tomb, all so he could give new life to you and me.

The Virgin Birth is significant because it demonstrates Jesus's "set-apartness" as a sinless savior untainted by Adam's curse. Instead, becoming a better Adam, he does for us what we cannot do for ourselves- make ourselves new.

Because of the Virgin Birth, we have no participation in our own deliverance, which simultaneously checks our pride and draws us to worship.

As we unpack what this means for our life, let's investigate the power of God to create new life so we can cultivate a worshipful response.

DISCUSSION

Pastor Joey said the backdrop for the virgin birth is our powerlessness to fix ourselves from the curse of sin. The flaw is so deep that no earthly repairman can take it away. Like Pastor Joey's refrigerator story, we are faulty and deserve to be tossed out, no longer in need of "tweaks," but in need of "transformation."

- What is one area you feel you need to "fix" about yourself that just feels hopeless?
- Why?

Pastor Joey said that our helplessness to fix ourselves is precisely what makes the virgin birth such good news. Jesus being born free from the curse of Sin is

Necessary: We needed someone untainted by sin to save us.

Humbling: His birth, like His grace, can not be earned by man's efforts.

Joyous: God initiated with humankind when we didn't deserve it.

- Which of these most stirs your heart most to worship today? Why?

Pastor Joey said that the virgin birth is about God's power to bring about new life. And when we dwell on that power, it should stir our hearts to worship and faith in a God who can do as he pleases and chooses to save.

But often, it doesn't because of our disordered relationship with power. When it comes to power figures and the power they wield, we are often tempted to respond in one of the following ways:

We fear power

We lust after power

We doubt the good intentions of those who wield power

- Which of the following are you tempted to feel about God's power? Why?

Until we surrender to and celebrate God's good power, we will struggle to be transformed by it.

- What circumstances or mindsets are preventing you from surrendering to and celebrating God's power in your life?
- How does the virgin birth encourage you to return to a posture of surrender to and celebration of God's power?
- How do you want to practice surrendering to God's power this week?
- How do you want to practice celebrating God's power this week?