

# Influence Ministries

## WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?

### LESSON 3

#### TITLE: ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO BE SAVED.

*Matthew 1: 24 ERV*

*When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel told him to do. He married Mary.*

Last week we learned "God needed Christmas" but they didn't recognize him

What the ancient Jewish people were looking for was a Joshua, a warrior-king that could come in and deliver the people from their oppressors.

Here's how the story goes. His mother, Mary, was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Ghost.

Her future husband, her fiancé, was faithful to the law.

In other words, the law says you can't marry her.

The law says you must shame her.

The law says you got to do something, burn her at the stake or stone her.

Yet he did not want to expose her to public disgrace. "I don't want to make a public spectacle and bring her out to the city square and say, 'I'm not marrying her because she's been unfaithful and she's pregnant.'"

He's caught between law and grace.

He was thinking, he hadn't decided yet, he had in mind to divorce her quietly, which he could do.

The whole idea of a virgin birth, nobody was expecting this. There's a verse that Matthew quotes later from Isaiah where it talks about a virgin will have a baby and you're to name him Emmanuel, God with us.

*Matthew 1: 23*

*"The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name him Immanuel." (Immanuel means "God with us.")*

*Isaiah 7:14*

*But the Lord will still show you this sign: The young woman is pregnant and will give birth to a son. She will name him Immanuel.*

Everybody expected the Messiah to become from the line of David.

They expected the Messiah to have an earthly father, who was related somehow to David.

I've been instructed by an angel to name my son the name that we know will be the name of the coming and long awaited-on Messiah?

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Because for hundreds of years, we have been a vassal state. For hundreds of years, we've been oppressed by Assyria, then Babylon, then Persia, then the Greeks, and now, the Romans.

I know exactly why the Messiah is finally going to be born into this world.

The scriptures list every sin imaginable, and what to do about every sin imaginable. We do not need another system to help us be saved from our sins.

What we hear is, "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will forgive his people of their sins."

If we're not careful, we will reduce Christmas to forgiveness. If you have reduced Christmas to merely forgiveness, you've missed the primary message of Christmas.

Jesus came to deliver us from the power of sin.

Jesus came in, the warrior that came to free us from the kingdom of, the dominion of, the power of, slavery to, the nation of sin.

That we have been promised, in Jesus, deliverance from, salvation from, the power of sin in our lives.

The woman caught in adultery. This famous story is an example of forgiveness and the power of Christmas.

This is God in a body, imagine this moment, and he says to her, "Neither do I condemn you." In other words, "I who have the power, right here on the temple," we don't need to go over there and sacrifice an animal, you are looking at the Lamb of God, "I do not condemn you." That's the famous part, "I do not condemn you."

Basically, Jesus said, "You're forgiven." And only who can forgive? Only one person can forgive, God.

I've come to do more than forgive you from sin, I have come to free you from sin.

Sin kills things. Sin always kills something.

Some of you've had a marriage killed by sin.

Some of you've had your finances killed by a lack of self-control, sin.

Some of you've seen the relationship between you and one of your sons or your daughter killed by their sin or your sin.

Some of you have seen an addiction kill a relationship, kill the way you view yourself.

You look in the mirror and you don't like what you see.

And the reason you don't like what you see is because of sin, because sin has killed the way you view yourself. Wherever there is sin, something always dies.

You receive the gift of God's life, the Holy Ghost, a life free from the power and bondage to sin.

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A life that frees us from sin's control. That was the gift of Christmas.

Not just forgiveness for, freedom from, the power of sin.

Not the law of God, the spirit of God, in you.

Sin is not your master. Lust is not your master.

A lack of self-control in some area of your life is not your master.

Alcohol is not your master.

Prescription drugs are not your master.

Your anger is not your master.

Your jealousy is not your master.

Your habit is not your master.

But sin is not your master, "you can go and sin no more."

I do not have to live as a prisoner to sin, because sin is not my master.

You can speak to me, you can taunt me, you can bait me, you can tempt me, but sin, you are not my master.

if you ever get fed up with something that seems to control you, if you ever get fed up with the self-destruction that you bring on yourself, and the self-destructive habits that destroy the relationships that are most important to you, if you ever get fed up with that, I have some great news for you.

Christmas. Christmas is a standing invitation to you.

You have been invited into a relationship where sin no longer has to be your master.

Because you're not under law, you're under grace.

You're a candidate for Christmas.

So,

who needs Christmas? The world did.

And who needs Christmas? God did, because He needed a way to demonstrate His love for us.

And who needs Christmas? **ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SIN.**

**You are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sin.**