



DECEMBER 22, 2019
SERMON NOTES
"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"
MATTHEW 1:18-25



I. I History of the carol

- A. The writer of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is _____.
- B. The song owes its worldwide acceptance to a man named John Mason _____.

II. God in a body

- A. _____ means God with us.
- B. John tells us that God came to _____.

III. Emmanuel – what it means for us

- A. God _____ with us.
- B. God _____ with us.
- C. God _____ be with us.

Things I would like to remember about this message:

Asbury Daily Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

One of the oldest and most loved Christmas carols of all time is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

It’s a carol whose author remains unknown but it was probably a monk or priest who penned the words before 800 A.D. The song owes its worldwide acceptance to an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale. Neal translated the carol into English and it was first published in the 1850’s in England. The carol has a wonderful history, but what does this ancient hymn tell us about God?

Monday: Isaiah 7:5-16, Matthew 1:22-23

Kings were plotting to attack Israel, and King Ahaz was frightened. The prophet Isaiah gave him a sign of hope that a young woman would give birth to a son. Before the boy reached bar mitzvah age—age 13, the plotting kingdoms would lose their power (and they did). Matthew said Mary’s son completed Isaiah’s prophecy by being God’s presence for all people. Have you ever felt that God was truly with you?

Tuesday: 1 John 1:1-3

John used lofty, nearly ecstatic language as he reflected (probably several decades later) on his experience of knowing and following Jesus. Why did John say, “What we have seen and our hands handled”? Who were the “we” in John’s verses? Does it strengthen your faith to hear this testimony from eyewitnesses?

Wednesday: John 14:7-11

This passage takes place the night before his crucifixion, when Jesus told the disciples, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” Is it hard for you to relate God the Father to Jesus? How well do you feel that you “know” Jesus, both as a person and as God?

Thursday: Colossians 1:13-20

The poetic words of verses 15-20 appear to be the lyrics to an early Christian hymn in honor of Jesus. Their joyous hymn said “All the fullness of God,” lived in him. He truly was “God with us. Do these verses help you to fully accept just who Jesus and therefore God is? Do they help you see that Jesus truly was and is “God with us”?

Friday: Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus was not “God with us” in the way we might expect God to come. Today’s reading, another early Christian hymn, honored Jesus, but not by starting with his power or majesty. It praised his willingness to “empty himself” for us. Jesus did not demand divine prerogatives, but came to serve, and even to suffer. Could Jesus (he was God, after all) have avoided these difficulties? Why didn’t he? Of what did he “empty himself”?

MOVING FORWARD

“O Come O Come Emmanuel.” Emmanuel means: God with us. God is with you, God was with you, God will be with you. And that’s the best news ever. But does that make a difference in our lives? Are we living our lives like God is with us? No question that God is with you. Real question: Are you with God?

Answers to the sermon notes:

- IA) unknown. B) Neale.
- IIA) Emmanuel, B) earth.
- IIIA) is, IB) was, C) will.