

What a Lovely Name

Matthew 1: 21-23, Luke 2: 11

There's an old hymn entitled "What a Lovely Name". The 1st stanza reads: There's a name above all others, Wonderful to hear, bringing hope and cheer; It's the lovely name of Jesus, Evermore the same, what a lovely name. Most of you know that old hymn; but most importantly, I pray that all of you know that Name! It is certainly a name worth knowing, because it belongs to a Savior worth loving.

The name of Jesus truly is a lovely name. It is that lovely name that I want us to consider this morning. Christmas is upon us and the One who bears that name is the reason we are here. His name means much to the believer. It speaks of much more than a babe in a lowly manger. Let's consider the significance of that Name.

I. JESUS – His Pre-eminence (21) – **Jesus** means **Jehovah is salvation**. What a name, the name of Jesus. In that day Jesus was a common name. It is the Greek form of the Hebrew name, Joshua. At His birth, Jesus became a special name, a pre-eminent name.

- This was the name chosen by God. It speaks of who He is. It declares His deity as the Son of God. Jesus is the name known in heaven, recognized by the angels. It is the name that brings fear to Satan and the forces of hell.
- Never has a name endured the ages of time as the name Jesus. It is still the name that brings comfort to those in despair, salvation to the sinner, and hope to the hopeless. It is a name both loved and hated, cursed and honored, received and rejected; but, Jesus is a name above all others. **Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.** (Phil.2:9-11) There's no other name like Jesus! I hope it's more than just a name to you.

II. Emmanuel – His Person (23) – This is His name that is seldom spoken, but it holds special significance for all of mankind, especially the Christian. **Emmanuel** means **God with us**.

- It reminds us of Jesus' humanity. His was no ordinary birth, not just another child. He came as God in the flesh. He came as the perfect God-Man. He was born of a virgin, conceived of the Holy Ghost.
- On that faithful Christmas, God came in the form of a man to dwell among the fallen creation. **Jn.1:14 – And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** Isn't it amazing that Christ came at all? He left all the splendor of heaven, laid aside His glory, and was robed in flesh, all for you and me! **Phil.2:7 – But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him**

the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. Without our Emmanuel, there would be no salvation; had He not come, we would still be lost. Aren't you glad He came as a humble babe to redeem us?

I. JESUS – His Pre-eminence (21)

II. Emmanuel – His Person (23)

III. Savior – His Purpose (Lu.2:11) – For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. The angel had brought good tidings of great joy. The Savior of the world had been born in Bethlehem. Jesus came to deliver us from sin; that is why He came.

- He could've come as a righteous judge to condemn; but, He came as Savior, full of compassion. He didn't come for the wealthy, or men of high degree; He came for the lowly sinner, those held captive by sin, lost and undone. Jesus came to set us free! Lu.19:10 – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Ro.5:6 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

- He accomplished what we never could. It was impossible for us to redeem ourselves. Jesus came as the Savior of the world. I Jn.4:14 – And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. He alone was worthy; He alone could purchase our forgiveness. Without the Savior, we would still be in our sin. What a Savior!

IV. Christ – His Priesthood (11) – The Greek word is *Christos* and means the same as the Hebrew, *Messiah*. Christ is the Messiah, the anointed One! He is the one they had longed for; the One the prophets preached about. The anointed One had come.

- In the name Christ, we see Him as the holy High Priest. Jesus came to provide redemption, but through Him we have much more than just forgiveness. He ascended back to the Father, placing His royal, redeeming blood on the mercy seat, thus forever removing the veil of separation.

- Christ provided a means by which we can approach the Father. Every born again Christian has direct access to the throne room of God. He stands as our Mediator, making intercession for us! I Tim.2:5 – For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. I can come before the Father without fear. We can boldly come unto the throne room of grace. I stand cleansed in the blood of the Lamb. God doesn't see me as a condemned sinner, but a cleansed saint.

I. JESUS – His Pre-eminence (21)

II. Emmanuel – His Person (23)

III. Savior – His Purpose (Lu.2:11)

IV. Christ – His Priesthood (11)

V. Lord – His Power (11) – For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Jesus is also known as Lord. This particular name speaks of His supreme authority; He is our Master! We serve the King of kings and Lord of lords.

- There has never been a time when Jesus wasn't Lord. The title and its attributes were never foreign to Christ. He didn't become Lord; He is Lord! He stood as Lord in glory with the Father. He was Lord on earth, possessing complete authority. He was Lord over the waves, the demons, all manner of sickness, and even death.
- He is even Lord over hell and the grave. Never think the cross was the end, even in His death, Jesus was Lord. He laid down His life and took it up again. He is seated right now at the right hand of God. He is Lord of all. Col.1:17 – And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

If you did not recognize my name, you wouldn't have missed much. But, the name of Jesus, that's a much different story. His name means all to me.

Have you met this wonderful Jesus? Simply believing in Him and calling upon His name will make an eternal difference in your life. What a lovely name, the precious name of Jesus! He brought salvation to the shepherds, the disciples, and the thief on the cross; He can provide salvation for you also!