



WOW: Word Of the Week

Immanuel

December 23, 2020

We have heard it. Do we know it; do we understand it? I am still thinking about last Sunday's Bible study, the third sermon in the 2020 Christmas sermon series. Christmas resolutions. To Seek, Share, Exalt Him! The transformative power of the Christmas story. Jesus changes everything! Have you let Jesus change your life? God has come among us. He has walked, lived, and hurt – among us. He has tabernacled among us. He walked where we walk; he understands.

In the Incarnation, God has come among us: God with us (Matt. 1:23). Three years later, as Jesus prepared to go back to the Father at the Ascension, the question that hung over the disciples like a cloud: Does this mean that God will no longer be with us? The promise of Matt. 28:20 must be understood as the closing parenthesis of Matthew's gospel. "God with us, I will be with you always." In John's Gospel we learn that Jesus' physical leaving will open the way for the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The comfort of three simple words: "I'm here now." Don't worry, don't be afraid. I'm here now.

What does Immanuel mean for us practically? God is with us. "I'm here now."

It will change your daily life, living as though God is at your side.

It will change your talk, what you talk about all day long.

It will change your thinking, how you see life.

It will change your emotions, sympathy, relationships.

Christmas is here again. Where is your focus? What are you thinking about? What occupies your time, your life? Is it unfair to talk about priorities?

How will you show that Jesus is your Immanuel at this season? Many celebrate Christmas without celebrating Immanuel. Many are little interested in a God who is constantly present.

How will you show that Jesus is your Immanuel in coming weeks and months?