**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | His Undiminished Deity |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 1:20-23 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2378 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The baby born in Bethlehem was God in human flesh.
   2. Any so-called “Jesus Movement” that is not church-centered is not a Jesus Movement.
      1. Ephesians 3:21
   3. Any so-called church that is not Jesus-centered is not a true church.
   4. Matthew 1:20-23
      1. Who was this child born on Christmas Day?
   5. There is only one right answer and many wrong answers to the question: Who is this one we call Jesus?
      1. There are those who say Jesus was a great man.
         1. Jesus is more than just a great man, and we’ve missed it all if we just tip the hat to Jesus.
         2. He is not “Jesus the Great”; He is Jesus the one and only.
      2. Others speak of Jesus as a moral teacher.
         1. As C.S. Lewis stated, a mere man who said the things that Jesus said and claimed to be God would not be a great moral teacher. Either He was and is the Son of God, or else He was a lunatic or something worse.
      3. Still others say that He is a prophet or messenger of God.
         1. Jesus Christ is not a prophet or messenger; He is God in human flesh.
      4. New Agers call Jesus a mystic medium.
   6. Not only is Jesus the Son of God; Jesus is God the Son.
      1. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh.
   7. Matthew 1:20-22
      1. The doctrine of the Trinity is the great Christian distinctive: one God in three persons.
         1. God the Father
         2. God the Son
         3. God the Holy Spirit
      2. To misunderstand the Trinity is to lead to heresy.
      3. If we miss the Trinity, then we have missed the meaning and the message of the Bible: that God is a God of three in one and one in three.
   8. God the Father and God the Son are described the same way in Scripture.
      1. The most holy name for God in the Old Testament is the great “I AM.”
         1. Exodus 3:14
            1. God showed Himself to Moses as the great “I AM.”
            2. There was never a time when God was not.
      2. In the New Testament, Jesus used the same name to describe Himself.
         1. John 8:56-58
            1. There was never a time when Jesus was not.
   9. The Holy Spirit is not an influence emanating from God.
      1. In the Christmas story, the Holy Spirit overshadows Mary.
         1. The Holy Spirit is also God because Jesus is the Son of God according to the flesh.
      2. The Holy Spirit is not an “it;” He is a person.
         1. Ephesians 4:30
            1. You cannot grieve an influence; you can only grieve a person.
      3. Acts 5:3-4
         1. We see in this passage the deity of the Holy Spirit.
         2. When Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, they lied to God.
2. THE UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY (1 Timothy 3:16)
   1. The mystery of the Trinity cannot be understood; it must be believed.
      1. How can the finite understand the infinite?
      2. The mystery of the Trinity goes beyond logic, philosophy, science and mathematics.
         1. There are many things in the natural realm we do not understand, as well.
            1. We do not understand how out of the muck and mire of dirt a beautiful flower can grow.
            2. We do not understand infinity.
            3. We do not understand eternity.
      3. Do not try to prove the Trinity; believe it because God settles it in His Word.
   2. The Trinity is an unfathomable mystery, but it is nonetheless true.
   3. People will try to use illustrations to describe the Trinity; but there is only one God, and there is nothing to compare Him to.
      1. Isaiah 40:18
      2. We should not make the mistake of saying, “God is like this…”
         1. There is only one God.
   4. We see reflections of His Trinity in everything:
      1. Time – past, present and future
      2. Space – height, width and depth
      3. Each is distinguishable, but all are inseparable.
         1. We cannot have height without width, etc.
         2. These are reflections but not proofs.
   5. People will sometimes use false analogies to try to describe the Trinity.
      1. For instance, you may be a husband, a father and a grandfather.
         1. This is called modalism.
      2. The Trinity is not God acting in three ways; it is God in three persons.
   6. Isaiah 55:8-9
   7. Don’t try to explain the Trinity; you’ll lose your mind. Don’t deny it; you’ll lose your soul.
   8. We know the Trinity by divine revelation as we open the Word of God.
3. THE UNFOLDED MANIFESTATION OF THE TRINITY (Matthew 1:22-23)
   1. We see throughout Scripture that God has manifested Himself as triune.
      1. God has revealed His triune nature in the Old Testament prophecies.
         1. Genesis 1:1
            1. The Hebrew word for God used in this passage is “Elohim,” which is a plural noun.
            2. The writer of Genesis, through divine inspiration, also used a singular verb with the plural noun.
            3. This shows the triune God acting as a unity.
      2. John 1:1-3
         1. The “Word” is the biblical description of Jesus.
         2. The babe of Bethlehem is the mighty God of Genesis 1.
            1. Nothing was made without Jesus Christ.
      3. Deuteronomy 6:4-5
         1. In this great confession of Israel, we see the Trinity.
            1. When the writer stated, “Jehovah our Elohim is one Lord,” he used the word “echad” for the word “one.” The English translation of “echad” means a plural one.
         2. There are other examples in the Old Testament where “echad” is used:
            1. Genesis 2:24

This speaks of when a husband and wife come together as one flesh.

* + - * 1. Genesis 11:6

At the Tower of Babel, God said, “The people is one.”

* + - * 1. Numbers 13:23

Many grapes, yet one cluster.

This is a plural unity.

* 1. The Son of God is not only present in the New Testament, but He is also in the Old Testament.
     1. Daniel 3:25
        1. Jesus was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
     2. Proverbs 30:4
        1. His name is Jehovah, and His Son’s name is Jesus.
     3. Psalm 2:6-7
        1. Jesus is speaking in this passage.
     4. Isaiah 9:6
        1. The name of the baby born in Bethlehem is the “Mighty God.”
        2. The name translated as “Mighty God” in this passage literally means “The God-Man.”
        3. This passage in Isaiah was written 700 years before Christ was born.
     5. Isaiah 10:21
        1. This passage is referring to Jehovah, and Jesus is called Jehovah.
  2. Matthew 28:19
     1. This Great Commission would be blasphemous if Jesus Christ is not God.

1. THE UNCHANGING MINISTRY OF THE TRINITY (Matthew 1:20-21)
   1. The Holy Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – work together in our salvation.
      1. We are selected by the Father.
         1. He loved us before we were ever born.
      2. We are saved by the Son.
      3. We are sealed by the Spirit.
   2. 2 Corinthians 13:14
      1. God loves us, Jesus saves us and the Holy Spirit empowers us.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. We get it all when we receive Jesus.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16