

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: His Undiminished Deity

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 1:20-23

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2378

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The baby born in Bethlehem was God in human flesh.
- b) Any so-called “Jesus Movement” that is not church-centered is not a Jesus Movement.
 - i) Ephesians 3:21
- c) Any so-called church that is not Jesus-centered is not a true church.
- d) Matthew 1:20-23
 - i) Who was this child born on Christmas Day?
- e) There is only one right answer and many wrong answers to the question: Who is this one we call Jesus?
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.
- f) Not only is Jesus the Son of God; Jesus is God the Son.
 - i) Jesus is God manifest in the flesh.
- g) Matthew 1:20-22
 - i) 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
 - ii) To misunderstand the Trinity is to lead to heresy.
 - iii) 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.
- h) God the Father and God the Son are described the same way in Scripture.
 - i) The most holy name for God in the Old Testament is the great “I AM.”
 - (1) Exodus 3:14
 - (a) God showed Himself to Moses as the great “I AM.”
 - (b) There was never a time when God was not.
 - ii) In the New Testament, Jesus used the same name to describe Himself.
 - (1) John 8:56-58
 - (a) There was never a time when Jesus was not.
- i) The Holy Spirit is not an influence emanating from God.
 - i) 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.

- ii) The Holy Spirit is not an “it;” He is a person.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:30
 - (a) You cannot grieve an influence; you can only grieve a person.
 - iii) 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)
- a) The mystery of the Trinity cannot be understood; it must be believed.
 - i) How can the finite understand the infinite?
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) We do not understand how out of the muck and mire of dirt a beautiful flower can grow.
 - (b) We do not understand infinity.
 - (c) We do not understand eternity.
 - iii) Do not try to prove the Trinity; believe it because God settles it in His Word.
 - b) The Trinity is an unfathomable mystery, but it is nonetheless true.
 - c) People will try to use illustrations to describe the Trinity; but there is only one God, and there is nothing to compare Him to.
 - i) Isaiah 40:18
 - ii) We should not make the mistake of saying, “God is like this...”
 - (1) There is only one God.
 - d) We see reflections of His Trinity in everything:
 - i) Time – past, present and future
 - ii) Space – height, width and depth
 - iii) Each is distinguishable, but all are inseparable.
 - (1) We cannot have height without width, etc.
 - (2) These are reflections but not proofs.
 - e) People will sometimes use false analogies to try to describe the Trinity.
 - i) For instance, you may be a husband, a father and a grandfather.
 - (1) This is called modalism.
 - ii) The Trinity is not God acting in three ways; it is God in three persons.
 - f) Isaiah 55:8-9
 - g) Don’t try to explain the Trinity; you’ll lose your mind. Don’t deny it; you’ll lose your soul.
 - h) 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)
- a) We see throughout Scripture that God has manifested Himself as triune.
 - i) God has revealed His triune nature in the Old Testament prophecies.

- (1) Genesis 1:1
 - (a) The Hebrew word for God used in this passage is “Elohim,” which is a plural noun.
 - (b) The writer of Genesis, through divine inspiration, also used a singular verb with the plural noun.
 - (c) This shows the triune God acting as a unity.
 - ii) John 1:1-3
 - (1) The “Word” is the biblical description of Jesus.
 - (2) The babe of Bethlehem is the mighty God of Genesis one.
 - (a) Nothing was made without Jesus Christ.
 - iii) Deuteronomy 6:4-5
 - (1) In this great confession of Israel, we see the Trinity.
 - (a) 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:
 - (a) Genesis 2:24
 - (i) This speaks of when a husband and wife come together as one flesh.
 - (b) Genesis 11:6
 - (i) At the Tower of Babel, God said, “The people is one.”
 - (c) Numbers 13:23
 - (i) Many grapes, yet one cluster.
 - (ii) This is a plural unity.
 - b) The Son of God is not only present in the New Testament, but He is also in the Old Testament.
 - i) Daniel 3:25
 - (1) Jesus was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
 - ii) Proverbs 30:4
 - (1) His name is Jehovah, and His Son’s name is Jesus.
 - iii) Psalm 2:6-7
 - (1) Jesus is speaking in this passage.
 - iv) 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.
 - v) Isaiah 10:21
 - (1) This passage is referring to Jehovah, and Jesus is called Jehovah.
 - c) Matthew 28:19
 - i) This Great Commission would be blasphemous if Jesus Christ is not God.
- 4) THE UNCHANGING MINISTRY OF THE TRINITY (Matthew 1:20-21)

- a) The Holy Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – work together in our salvation.
 - i) We are selected by the Father.
 - (1) He loved us before we were ever born.
 - ii) We are saved by the Son.
 - iii) We are sealed by the Spirit.
- b) 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - i) God loves us, Jesus saves us and the Holy Spirit empowers us.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) We get it all when we receive Jesus.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16