|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Matt 1:18-25 Phil 2:9-11 | Christmas Day –What is in a Name? | Pinelands – 9am - 25/12/2023  |

**What is in a name?**

Video – Michael MacIntyre – names

**Names** – such an ***integral*** part of our lives…

 Give us a **handle on people…**

 Forms part of our identity / individuality

 Introduce ourselves with our names…

 Relationships change with names…

 ***Strangers - acquaintances - friends***

 Parent choosing names - books / meanings / perceptions

 Names have **meaning…**

 Some are proud of their name

 Family names (Family history – genealogy)

Some of us have been **given a *nickname…***

By our family… By friends *(School friends)*

Some are embarrassing nicknames…

But have stuck with us

Partners – **‘Pet Name’**

Sometimes we can use **‘A’** name. “Name Drop”

get us out of trouble,

help get us into an event,

to **gain favor**… get help from someone… or even get a job.

Some Names are Powerful… *(not always for the best reasons)*

 Donald Trump (a joke but powerful)

 Bill Gates… That name will get you places…

 Far more than Ross Southern

We even curse people with Names…

 Insult and verbally abuse people…

 By calling them ***‘Names’***

In the words of an African Proverb…

***“It’s not what you are called… it’s what you answer to”***

**What about the name of Jesus…**

**Readings…** ***Matthew 1:18-25***

***Phil 2:9-11***

**Two interesting points to note…** about the **Name of JESUS**

**1) Jesus’ Earthly Parents did not name him…**

God the father did.

How often in the Gospels did people ask about Jesus…

 ***“Who is he?”*** or ***“Who is this man?”***

Response was… ***“Jesus the Prophet”***

***“Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee”*** (Matt 21)

**Remember when** as a child Jesus went to the temple…

he spoke with such wisdom…

You can imagine the elders / leaders asking…

 ***“Who is this Child?”…*** ***“Jesus of Nazareth son of***

 ***Joseph the carpenter.”***

 ***“Son, how old are You?”…***

Jesus might have had some fun and said, ***“Well,”…***

***“On My mother’s side, I’m 12-years-old,***

***BUT on My Father’s side… That is a different story.***

 **Jesus was *Both*… GOD *AND* HUMAN**

**On** His mother’s side… He got thirsty;

**On** His Father’s side, He said, ***“I am the water of life.”***

**On** His mother’s side, He got hungry;

**On** His Father’s side, He took a little boy’s lunch

and fed 5,000 people.

**On** His mother’s side, He was homeless, and didn’t have

a place to lay His head;

**On** His Father’s side, He owned the cattle on

a thousand hills.

**On** His mother’s side, He wept at the grave of Lazarus;

**On** His Father’s side, He said, ***“Lazarus, come forth,”*** and raised

 him from the dead.

**JESUS is… the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!**

Second interesting thing to note about the Name of Jesus…

**2) The Name ‘Jesus’ is the same as ‘Joshua…’**

 Link to **OT Joshua…** Who after **Moses…**

Led the Israelites into the promised land

 **Jesus** leads us into…

Eternal life / Heaven / promised land.

**BUT… What does the Name “Jesus” mean to you?**

**3 points** that I want to leave with you as you ponder that question.

***FIRSTLY…* The NAME Jesus…**

**In 35 years of ministry** I have seen…

broken lives renewed,

strained relationships restored,

sick bodies healed and hearts transformed…

 **ALL through the NAME of Jesus!!**

**In 35 years of ministry…**

I have prayed in that **NAME…**

In hospitals, In people’s homes,

In emergency rooms, In funeral parlors,

In church services, On street corners.

 In businesses…

**The Name of Jesus…** has always…

brought comfort and strength to people.

**Peter and John…** as they go to the **temple…**

 Have nothing to give the **begger…**

 **BUT…** **IN The NAME of Jesus…** He is Healed.

In the **Bible** there are over **250 names given to Jesus…**

 Each name…

Gives us a handle on who he is

Describes a unique characteristic

Expresses a picture of our Lord…

**AND YET…** all of them put together still…

**DO NOT fully describe our LORD.**

 Fall short of His Glory

**SECONDLY… Jesus is The NAME above ALL Names.**

**Philippians 2** reminds us again…

 God has exalted Jesus to the highest place above…

**AND…**  **Given him…** ***“the name that is greater***

 ***than any other name.”***

Whatever name you give to ***ANYTHING…***

 **It is always BELOW the Name of JESUS**

The name of **Jesus…** **is above** the *name of any sickness or disease*

The name of **Jesus…** **is above** the *name of any Government*

The name of **Jesus…** **is above** the *name of any Organisation*

*or Company*

The name of **Jesus…** **is above…** *Bankruptcy,*

*Retrenchment,*

*Repossession,*

*Bad News / Circumstance*

*Any situation.*

**Whatever has been given a name…**

**it is always below the name of JESUS.**

**THIRDLY…** **As Christians… The Name of JESUS…** **“Gives us our Identity”**

**As a Christian…**

You’re ***NOT*** defined by…

the opinions of others

your circumstances.

your successes or failures.

the car you drive,

the money you make,

or the house own or live in or where you live

**You are defined by Christ and Christ alone.**

***“It’s not what you are called… it’s what you answer to.***”

You may have been **called** ***everything in the book…***

**BUT…** know that you are a **Child of God…**

 ***Who calls you by Your NAME.”***

Let me conclude with just one verse from Scripture

**Psalm 20:7… reads…**

***“Some trust in their war chariots and others***

 ***in their horses, but we trust in the Name***

 ***of the LORD our God.”*** *(NIV)*

**Be Blessed in the NAME of JESUS.**

**Matthew 1:18-25 The Birth of Jesus Christ**

This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.”

Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, “A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel” (which means, “God is with us”).

So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

**Philippians 2:9-11**

For this reason God raised him to the highest place above

 and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

And so, in honor of the name of Jesus

 all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below[a]

 will fall on their knees,

and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,

 to the glory of God the Father.