

God WITH Us pt 3: End of Exile

-Matthew 1:18-23 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

- Joseph thinks he has been sinned against
- so his reaction is to push Mary away

Problem: Sin Separates.

-Joseph's initial reaction represents what Sin does, in general, IT SEPARATES.

-Joseph's reaction is MUCH KINDER than most of ours would have been.

-this is some Jerry Springer, or Maury Povich type stuff

-We know after the fact that Mary didn't actually sin, but there is no way Joseph could have known that at first.

-his assumption was that she was immoral

-in his mind,,,,, She sinned against me! I am DONE with HER!

- divorce her. -to send her away

-Distance/ Separation were his solution to her perceived sin.

-Here we are on Christmas Eve and we are looking at the Christmas story itself,,, The Birth of Jesus.

—what it shows us is that Sin Separates

-we know it separates us from people,,, but what we will see in the next few minutes is that it separates from God as well.

-but the coming of Jesus is the SOLUTION TO THE SEPARATION

--Pray--

-Joseph's reaction is the Classic Human response to sin in others.

-verse 19 says that because Joseph was Faithful to Law he made up his mind to divorce Mary

-even though he was waiting,,,,, He was DONE WITH HER

-He was REPULSED

-It created a Debt or an Imbalance between them.

-When there are Rules and someone keeps those rules but someone else does not, the imbalance it creates is difficult to overcome.

-highways are merging you wait in traffic for 20 minutes and now you are at the exit, but that car drives right up to the exit and wants in without waiting

-does their cutting in really hurt me????? No,,, but it creates an imbalance in the universe,,, it is hard for me to just overcome that imbalance...

-why::: because I sat there,,,, I put up with the frustration,,,, I put up with the bad drivers around me ,,,, I wasted my time,,,, why should you get away with this...

-You see what I mean, when we keep the rules and and someone else does not it has a Repelling Effect.

—How much more would a Perfect God be Repelled by our sin?

-Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

-God is Repelled by our Sin. -He REPULSED by it.

-Sin causes a reaction of Disgust in God.

-Who has ever experienced Full Fledged Repulsion, or Disgust?

-One time I clearly remember be Repulsed (Septic Tank Incident)

-I couldn't come out of that hole fast enough

-Every Fiber of My Being was REPELLED.....

-once out I INSTANTLY knew which parts of my clothes were contaminated,,,,,, You have NEVER SEEN A PERSON UNDRRESS SO FAST

-Everything that had to do with the contents of that tank needed to be as far away from me as possible.

-Even that Pales in Comparison to God's Visceral Repulsion to sin.

-our sin is the UNDOING and DESTRUCTION of everything God created and LOVES

-Every person who has ever suffered and died,,,, every Murder and tragedy,,, every Injustice ,,,, everything Heartbreaking,,,,

-Human sin is responsible for the existence of all of that

Separation feels Harsh, but it is actually the Height of Mercy.

-Even Joseph's idea to quietly divorce Mary was Mercy.

-According to OT Law she could have been Stoned to DEATH on the spot

-Isaiah tells us that, God "hid his eyes from us". God allowed the separation and distance that resulted from our sin.

-but it is because God is PERFECTLY JUST

-so his JUST ANGER mixed with our sin could only result in our Destruction

-I want you to think of some of the worst examples how wrong the world has gone:

-worst injustices -pure evil perpetrated

-We (humanity), we are what is wrong with the world.

-Human sin has brought all this evil and destruction

-Without Separation God' Righteous Anger would Utterly Destroy us.

-It started all the way back in the Garden of Eden at creation.

-we were expelled from the Garden and the physical presence of God

-we were sent away from God,,,,, the way Joseph was planning to send Mary away

-But God came into the world as a man so that he could set a plan in motion to end to our Separation.

--Matthew 1:20-23 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel", which means "God with us".

-The Angel assured Joseph of Mary's innocence and then encouraged him to go ahead with the marriage.

-Then the Angel told Joseph two ways that this baby would change the world.

Jesus was God's Solution to our Sin Problem, which would open the door for God to be WITH us.

-The angel is telling Joseph that this baby will SAVE HUMANITY from Sin.
-With our Sin Issue Resolved our **Exile** from God's presence can **end**.

- Jesus carried the guilt of your sin and it was eternally punished in him
- by putting your trust in him you can be free from Guilt and Shame
- Because of Jesus there is nothing LEFT TO REPELL you from God's Presence**

-Because of Jesus our sin no longer has to equal Separation from God.

-Isaiah the prophet wrote hundreds of years before Jesus and he describes God's reaction to sin.

--Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

-Now because of Jesus God's response to us is entirely different.

-2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

-1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

-The coming of Jesus moves us from "EXILED FROM GOD" to BEING WITH GOD.

-I love what Jesus said in John 10:27 -My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

-That is what it means now that God is WITH us. We can go from SENT AWAY to HELD TIGHTLY in the hand of God.

CLOSING

-Which one of those two pictures feels more like your relationship with God?

-do you feel sent away, separated,,,

-do you feel like you are HELD TIGHTLY IN HIS HAND

-do you know his voice. -are you following it in your life

-are you assured of the eternal life he has offered you

-these are all what it means to be HELD IN HIS HAND

-Christmas is all about the fact that God wants to be WITH YOU, don't let one more season pass without that.

Pray