**Sermon Title: The Supernatural Emphasis/Significance of the Virgin Birth**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 1:23**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to realize the significance of “God with us.”**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 significant aspects of “God with us,” by means of the Virginal Conception.**

**Introduction:** There is nothing in the narrative that follows Luke 1:34-35 to suggest that Mary had anything other than a normal pregnancy and delivery. The narrative in Luke 2:22-40 about the trip to the Temple so that Mary could perform the ceremony of purification if fulfillment of the Law (**Leviticus 12:8**) suggest that Luke thought Mary had a normal delivery and required ritual cleansing. Luke tells us a bit more than Matthew about the process that resulted in the virginal conception, but both writers maintain a particular silence about the details.

 Their main concern is with the fact that the Messiah has come and the significance of the event.

 Jesus Christ and His work on the cross are absolutely central and essential to Christianity. But without the Virginal Conception it means nothing!

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

What is the emphasis or significance of the Virginal Conception?

 The significance of the virginal conception should not be neglected or ignored, as it has been historically in the church and by the culture.

**I. The event significance of the virginal conception.**

**II. The theological significance of the virginal conception.**

**III. The miraculous significance of the virginal conception.**

**I. The event significance of the virginal conception.**

 A. It indicates not merely that Jesus is God’s Son, in human flesh, by the work of the Holy Spirit, He is also the image of God expressed in human flesh. (**Hebrews 1:1-6**) **(Incarnation)**

 B. Jesus was a unique person who was the product of both the divine and the human in a manner unlike any others before or since Him. **(The Hypostatic Union)**

 **Matthew 16:15-17** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

 **Matthew 17:5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

 **1 Timothy 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God1 was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

 “In the union of the human and divine in Christ, each of the natures retained its own attributes. Deity did not permeate humanity, nor did humanity become absorbed in deity.”

 [**Handbook of Evangelical Theology, Robert P. Lightner, p.82**]

 C. John possibly sees the virginal conception and incarnation of the pre-existent Christ, as connected events.

 **John 1:13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

 [**Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, Joel B. Green, Scot McKnight, I. Howard Marshall, p.72**]

**II. The theological significance of the virginal conception.**

 A. The virginal conception explains the how of the incarnation. The virginal conception explains how Jesus could be born with a human nature and not be tainted with original sin.

 **(Impeccability)**

 **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

 B. The virginal conception also stresses that Jesus was fully human, participating in the whole human life cycle from womb to tomb. [**Ibid. p.72**]

 **Luke 2:52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

 Human soul - **Matthew 26:38** Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

 Human spirit - **Luke 23:46** And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father,`into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

**III. The miraculous significance of the virginal conception.**

 A. Jesus is a miraculous **gift** to all of humanity. **(Substitutionary Atonement)**

 **Hebrews 2:5-9** For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. **6** But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? **7** You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. **8** You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. **9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

 B. Jesus is not the product of any normal human activity or scientific explainable process.

 C. Jesus conception and birth is a historical fact. [**Ibid. p.72**]

 **Galatians 4:4-6** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, bornof a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

 1. The evidence of **time**.

 2. The evidence of **personal** relationship.