

Unity

A Saint
Matthew
Missionary
Baptist
Church
Publication

Behold, how good
and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity!
Psalm 133:1

January, 2022



New Year's Day
Saturday, January 1, 2022

This month at St. Matthew:

Sundays

Sunday School

9:30am

(In SS classrooms)

Worship Service

10:45am

(In Sanctuary & on Facebook)

Wednesdays

Bible Study

6pm

(In Sanctuary & on Zoom)

TAKE TIME FOR JESUS!

In 2022, just like in any other year, we may find ourselves busily caught up in things at home, work, school, or even in church stuff.

So before we get started in all the "busyness" that is waiting for us in the new year, let's set it on our hearts and minds to habitually take time out for Jesus, everyday!

God is listening; let's talk to Him. Let's read, meditate, and study His Word. We're sure to find that it is time well spent.

Submitted by Sis. Victoria Williams

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday, January 17, 2022

MAN'S GREAT HOPE Luke 2:25-26 Reverend Edwin Washington

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Hope and what it means today.

"Dictionary.com" gives us two meanings; the meaning as a noun and the meaning as a verb.

1) Noun—the feeling that what is wanted can be had or the events will turn out for the best. A particular instance of the feeling.

2) Verb—to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence.

In the life of the believer, we have to tweak the meaning. To sum it up, in the biblical term, it is faith in God to look forward to what will be.

So, as a nation and as believers of God, what do we hope for? Do we hope for that new car? Do we hope for that house? Do we hope for our first child to graduate from college? Or, hope to get well from illness, etc..... The list goes on.

Luke 2:25-26 takes place after the birth of Jesus Christ. Our focus is on the prophet named Simeon. There are 4 points to be made:

1. **Character:** Simeon's character was that of a righteous man that had a relationship with God. He lived in Jerusalem which was ruled by Rome, a pagan empire that was over God's people. Simeon was a praying man that used his relationship with God to pray for God's people to be taken from under the ruthless and corrupt system that was causing God's people to suffer.

Today, Christians need to pray for those who are suffering and pray that they are brought into a relationship with God.

We need to get serious about our worship with God. We need to be like Simeon and walk righteously before God and people. To be like Simeon we have to pray to God. Simeon knew how to pray and God had mercy upon him. A prayer life builds your relationship with God.

2. **The Great Hope:** We see Simeon waiting. His hope was to see the Consolation of Israel, which is Jesus Christ. Through his prayer God sends comfort. We as Christians need to be like Simeon and pray for our brethren. Pray for God's people. Prayer for God's people brings the blessing of hope. Our great hope is to one day see Jesus the Christ.

3. **Revelation of the Hope:** Simeon let the Holy Spirit guide him to the temple. Simeon listened to the Holy Spirit. When he listened he found himself in the temple and looking at the baby Jesus. There he held the baby and spoke the prophecy over the child.

The problem today is we don't listen to the Holy Spirit as our guide. When we do not listen to God, we end up in a place where we are not suppose to be. Listening to the Holy Spirit puts us in our proper position.

4. **Hope of the world:** The Greatest Hope for the world is Jesus the Christ. God ordained us into His kingdom. We are to pray for the hope of the world. Pray for souls to find Jesus. Our focus and concern should be for the people of God. Jesus the Christ is the Great Hope for the world. He is our salvation and the Door to God our Father.

In the world today, we need to become more diligent, more focused on God. We need to get serious in our worship and testimony so we can lead God's people to Jesus the Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ is for all people. We are a church that is unified and not confined to any one race. We need to let people know that if they will just confess their sins to Jesus Christ they shall be saved. It is good to let people know that God has ordained them through the Blood of Jesus Christ and no one can take that away. God is the Creator of all.

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin November 28, 2021

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

GOD WITH US *Isaiah 7:7-14*

7 thus says the Lord God:

“It shall not stand,

Nor shall it come to pass.

8 For the head of Syria is Damascus,

And the head of Damascus is Rezin.

Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken,

So that it will not be a people.

9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria,

And the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son.

If you will not believe,

Surely you shall not be established.” ’ ’ ”

The Immanuel Prophecy

10 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!”

13 Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Sometimes God will allow us to find ourselves between a rock and a hard place. We become desperate, stressing over our situations, and looking to our flesh for support. We should learn to trust God. Knowing He is our Father, He is merciful and just. God extends grace to us daily and is constantly fighting our battles. Be mindful that God is with us always.

Ahaz was a king allowing idols and images of other gods and committed abominations by worshipping these gods. During the dark days when Israel's King Pekah and Syria's King Rezin invaded Judah, it was Isaiah who had advised King Ahaz to **“take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint”** (Isaiah 7:4).

Isaiah tells Ahaz , to ask God for a sign that this is a true prophecy. But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7: 13-14).

Ahaz was about lifting up people, worshipping other gods. But because our God is a God of another chance He sent Isaiah to tell Ahaz He will protect you.

God is saying “I am here. I know of your troubles and what you going through. I will make your enemies your footstool.”

Be still and know God.

Submitted by Sister Cassandra Paterson December 5, 2021



bowl



bread



cup



house



oil bottle



spoon

Find and circle the hidden pictures.



Take time for Jesus every day!

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Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8

John 14:6

John 11:25

Romans 10:9

Ephesians 1:4-5

II Timothy 1:9

Ephesians 2:45

Hebrews 7:25

John 3:16-17

Colossians 1:12

II Corinthians 5:17

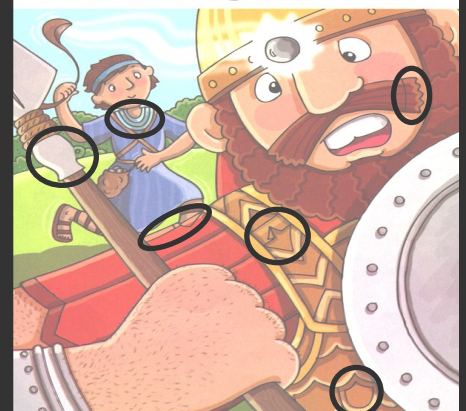
Romans 6:4

ANSWERS FOR DECEMBER 2021 CHALLENGES

J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
G	O	D	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	
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B	A	P	S	G	L	H	T	I	A	F
S	R	E	N	N	I	S	O	L	D	L



Find and circle the hidden pictures.





Congratulations to AJ Palm!

AJ was scheduled to graduate from Minor High School in May, 2022. However, through hard work and dedication, AJ completed his credits early. Therefore, as of December 17th, AJ has graduated and received his high school diploma!

**Congratulations, AJ!
What a great accomplishment!**

Church Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist

Welcome

Reverend
Edwin Washington

Sister
Constance Washington

Brother
Jamar Washington



GOD WILL DELIVER HIS PEOPLE *Isaiah 9:1-2, 6*

*Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed
The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles.*

*2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.*

*6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

When you think about the celebration of the incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you think about that all types of people who will celebrate Christmas. Believers and unbelievers alike will celebrate Christmas. But what we need to know is that Christmas is really about deliverance. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the first step in the stage of deliverance. The incarnation is the first hinge in a three hinge door and it is very important in the support of the door.

The incarnation speaks to the virgin birth. To believe Jesus is the Christ you have to acknowledge that He is of the virgin birth; if not, his birth or death will not matter. Either it stands all together or it does not stand at all. You cannot let anyone persuade you away from the virgin birth of Christ.

Christmas is a day of deliverance. God will deliver His people.

Isaiah's prophesy to King Ahaz spoke to the virgin birth. It spoke to the deliverance of God's people. It spoke to the sign that God will deliver His people. So when we think about Christmas, we need not just think of gift giving and presents under the tree. Our main focus should be on the true gift from God. And the true gift from God is the deliverance of His people through Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Bible we see that God shows up for His people. He is a constant and faithful deliverer. We become mindful of Abraham in the Valley of the Kings; how God showed up for Abraham. Another example in the Bible is when God showed up when Moses had Pharaoh to his back and the Red Sea ahead of him. God told Moses to hold out his staff and the Red Sea was parted. God will deliver His people.

We need to remember that Christmas Day is just as important as Easter Sunday. Christmas is the celebration of the virgin birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. He was given as a sacrifice for our salvation so we can be with our God in eternity.

Isaiah 8: 6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

God will deliver His people.

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin, December 12, 2021

HE MADE ROOM FOR US Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

*4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 **And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.***

We live in a difficult time; a time where people's lives are very busy and very cluttered. Knowledge has increased, and because of the increased knowledge, we are too occupied running to and fro.

Jesus made room for us. The question is, "Is there room for Him?"

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. Matthew 13:22 We have encumbered the Church with so much concern about worldly things, we have choked the Word; the Word is there but unfruitful.

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, Galatians 4:4 The pre-appointed time was not set by Caesar Augustus. God works providentially on behalf of His people. Even though Caesar decreed it, God had already ordained it in the fullness of time.

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Daniel 2:44 During this time of God establishing His eternal kingdom, He allowed for a universal peace.

Verse 4—Mary and Joseph probably had already made plans to deliver in Jerusalem. But God has a way of taking our purpose and plans and moving them about to His purpose and His plans. In Second Samuel, Jerusalem where David reigned is called "city of David." But in verse 4 the city of David is where he was born, in Bethlehem. David was born in humiliation. Jesus is able to identify from humility to exhortation!

Verse 5 is not so much about being taxed but about being registered. People will kick against taxes but were proud to register to identify with their tribe by tribe. We see how this develops God's plan and purpose.

Verses 6-7—God works in His timetable; Mary's days were completed. Now, how is it that there was no room for a double-descendant of David in the city of David? It's tragic when Jesus is excluded from those who are supposed to know Him. When you live in a society where materialism is what matters, it doesn't matter who your descendants are. **Jesus was out back because there wasn't room up front.**

Though there was no room for Him, He was in the process of making room for us. Jesus made room for us despite us. *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:1-2*

How do we prioritize our life when it comes to the things of God? We have to make Jesus first and foremost. When we put Jesus in the right place, we don't have to worry about the things of the world. **The most important thing in the Church of Jesus Christ is Jesus!**

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, December 19, 2021

We are Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church of Docena, AL

Unity
January, 2022

Where

Our Vision is that of an all-inclusive church, ministering to the needs of all God's people, to transform and empower them through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Our Mission is to progressively pursue the restoration of the spiritual, physical, and social condition of the community as we actively engage in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our Motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others for the Kingdom of God," which reflects the heart of this church as we address the needs of the church and the community.

We Believe that our society will be best affected through the ministry of the church. We further believe that the church is the best organization of people to rebuild our battered communities. As the church grows, so do the community, the city, the state, and the country. We are going to make a difference: one person, one family, one community at a time, for the Kingdom of God.

www.stmatthewdocena.org

Facebook: [St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church Docena Al](#)

Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor

Reverend Eddie Washington, Sr.

"We do not have to raise the standard to become the men and women God wants us to be; we simply have to come up to the one He has already set."

Deacon Board

Brother J.W. Henry, Chairman

Brother Steven Anderson	Brother Antoine Palm
Brother Victor Griffin	Brother Wallace Simmons
Brother Ronald King	Brother Lavone Thomas
Brother Roosevelt McCray	Brother Carlos Williams

Sunday Sermons are archived under "Sermons" on Saint Matthew's website

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