

*How Sweet the Name of Jesus*  
Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:14; Romans 1:1-7  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 23, 2007

- I. *Son of God– Matthew 1:18*
  - Incarnate Word
- II. *Son of Mary – Matthew 1:19-23*
  - Promised Deliverer
- III. *Son of David – Matthew 1:24-25*
  - Sovereign Savior and Threat

The basic outline is clear enough; we “know the story.” But our familiarity with this divine intervention, coupled with our contemporary dismissal from our vocabulary of a little word at the heart of the story, may imperil our souls, hardening our hearts to the wonder of it all. That little word we can easily miss is “sins” – it is from these he came to save us. Do we still believe in sin? Or should our prayer be, “God be merciful to me, a miscalculator?”

I. *Recovering the Doctrine of Sin - Why We Need a Savior (Matthew 1:21)*

- A. Sin
  - o Platinga’s *Breviary of Sin*
- B. Sin and its Consequences
  - 1. Personal
    - a. Guilt
    - b. Fear and Shame
    - c. Addiction
  - 2. Social - Destructiveness
  - 3. Eternal - Damnation
- C. Sin and its Power – Slavery, Death, Despair

II. *Receiving the Sacrifice of the Son – Why We Celebrate the Name (Matthew 1:21; Song of Solomon 1:3)*

- A. The Gospel’s Comprehensive Gladness
  - 1. The Son of God has come to Redeem his People and Forgive us all our Sins: Jesus is Savior
  - 2. The Son of Mary has come to Redeem his People and Begin a New Creation: Jesus is Immanuel.
  - 3. The Son of David has come to Redeem his People and Rule the Nations: Jesus is Lord
- B. The Gospel’s Comprehensive Welcome
  - o ““And we bring you the good news that what God has promised to the fathers he has thus fulfilled by raising up Jesus...through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you’...the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord...” Acts 13

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds<br>In a believer’s ear!<br>It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,<br>And drives away his fear.         | 4) Jesus! my Shepherd, Husband, Friend,<br>O Prophet, Priest and King,<br>My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,<br>Accept the praise I bring. |
| 2) It makes the wounded spirit whole,<br>And calms the troubled breast;<br>'Tis manna to the hungry soul,<br>And to the weary, rest.            | 5) Weak is the effort of my heart,<br>And cold my warmest thought;<br>But when I see Thee as Thou art,<br>I’ll praise Thee as I ought.    |
| 3) Dear Name, the Rock on which I build,<br>My Shield and Hiding Place,<br>My never failing treasury, filled<br>With boundless stores of grace! | 6) Till then I would Thy love proclaim<br>With every fleeting breath,<br>And may the music of Thy Name<br>Refresh my soul in death!       |

~ John Newton, *Olney Hymns*, 1779