



**EXPECTATION**

**God Is with Us**

# God Is With Us

- A given for us Jesus followers
- As close as the air we breathe
- How do we respond?
- Three biblical instances of the Immanuel promise



# Ahaz: Responding with Fear

<sup>2</sup> The news had come to the royal court of Judah: "Syria is allied with Israel against us!" So the hearts of the king and his people trembled with fear, like trees shaking in a storm.

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Take your son Shear-jashub and go out to meet King Ahaz. ... <sup>4</sup> Tell him to stop worrying.... <sup>7</sup> But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "This invasion will never happen; it will never take place...

Unless your faith is firm, I cannot make you stand firm."

(Isaiah 7:2-3a, 4a, 7 NLT)

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# Ahaz's Curriculum Vitae

<sup>2</sup> Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done. <sup>3</sup> Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his own son in the fire. In this way, he followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the pagan shrines and on the hills and under every green tree. (2 Kings 16:2-4 NLT)

# Ahaz: Responding with Fear

<sup>10</sup> Later, the LORD sent this message to King Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask the LORD your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead."

<sup>12</sup> But the king refused. "No," he said, "I will not test the LORD like that."

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn't it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well?"

(Isaiah 7:10-13 NLT)

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# Ahaz: Responding with Fear

<sup>14</sup> All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us'). <sup>15</sup> By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. <sup>16</sup> For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted. (Isaiah 7:14-16 NLT)



# Ahaz's Response and Ours

- Me
- Us



# God's Most Outrageous Promise

<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

# God's Most Outrageous Promise

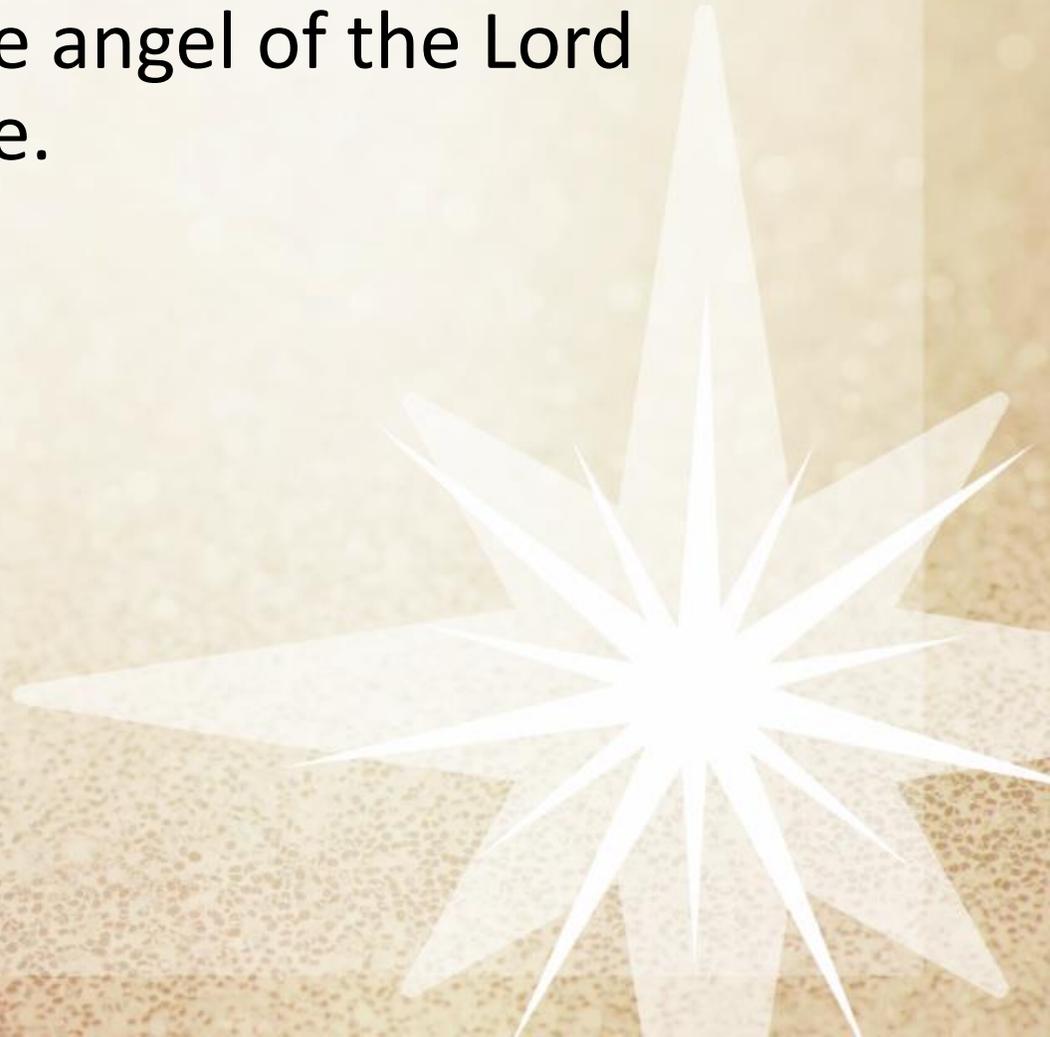
<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"  
(Matthew 1:18-23 NLT)



# Joseph: Responding with Trust

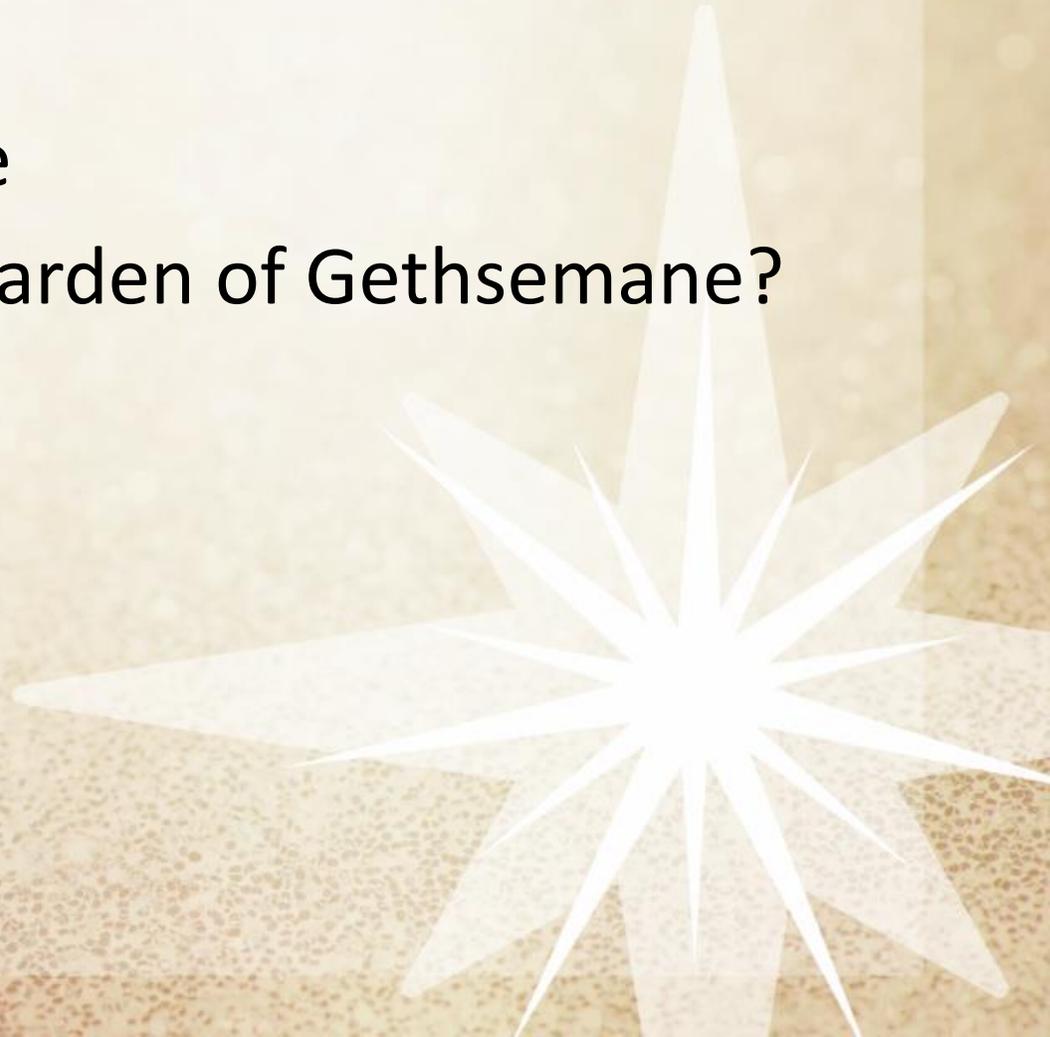
<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.  
(Matthew 1:24 NLT)

- Despite the cost
- Obedience is trust made real



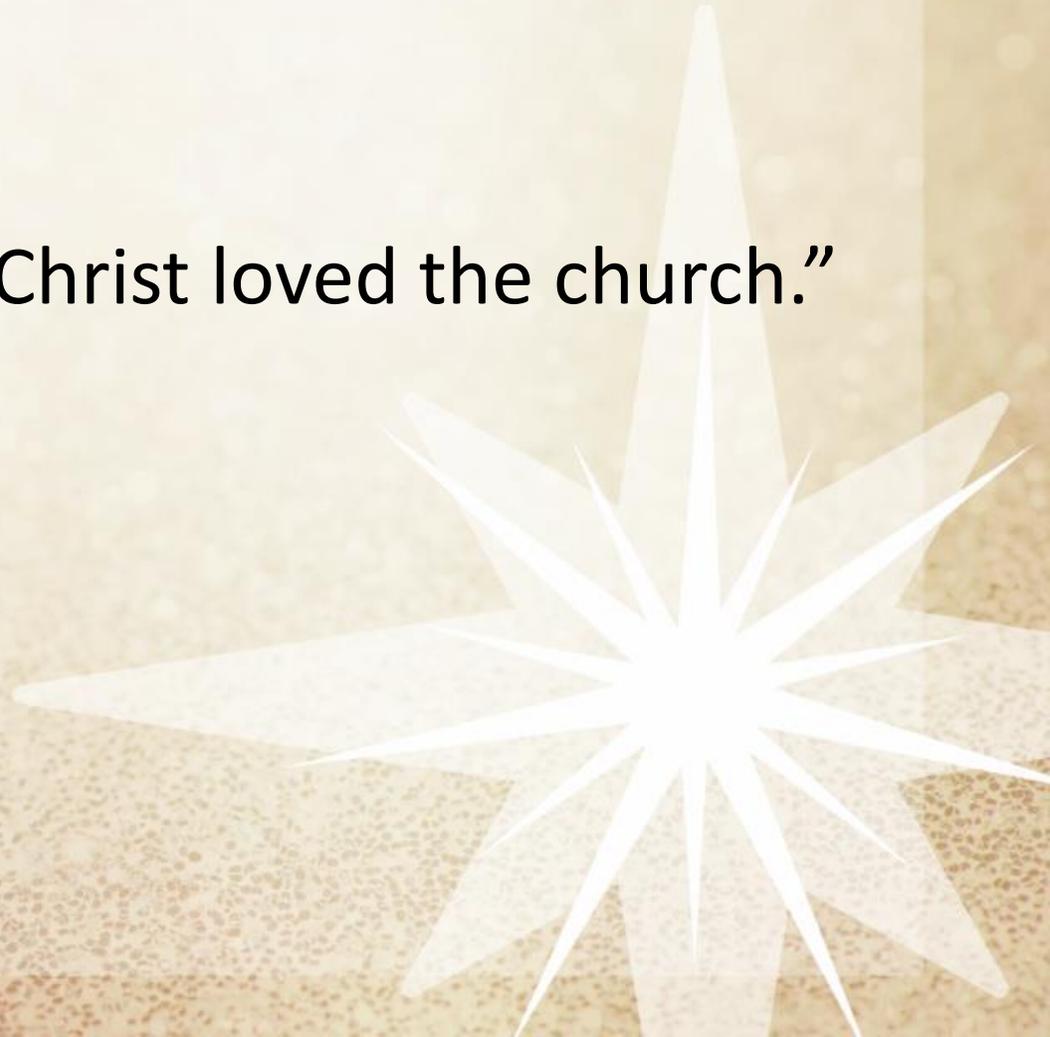
# Joseph in My Imagination

- Great inner strength
- Even greater humility and obedience
- Did Jesus remember Joseph in the Garden of Gethsemane?



# Challenges Particular to Men

- Protect and provide for my family
- A servant leader
- “Husbands...love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.”  
(Ephesians 5:25 NLT)
- That’s the kind of man Joseph was.



# Other Examples of Joseph's Leadership

<sup>13</sup> After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, <sup>15</sup> and they stayed there until Herod's death.  
(Matthew 2:13-15 NLT)

# Other Examples of Joseph's Leadership

God provided, Joseph trusted and obeyed.



# Other Examples of Joseph's Leadership

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead." <sup>21</sup> So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. <sup>22</sup> But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth.

(Matthew 2:19-23a NLT)

# Joseph's Response and Ours

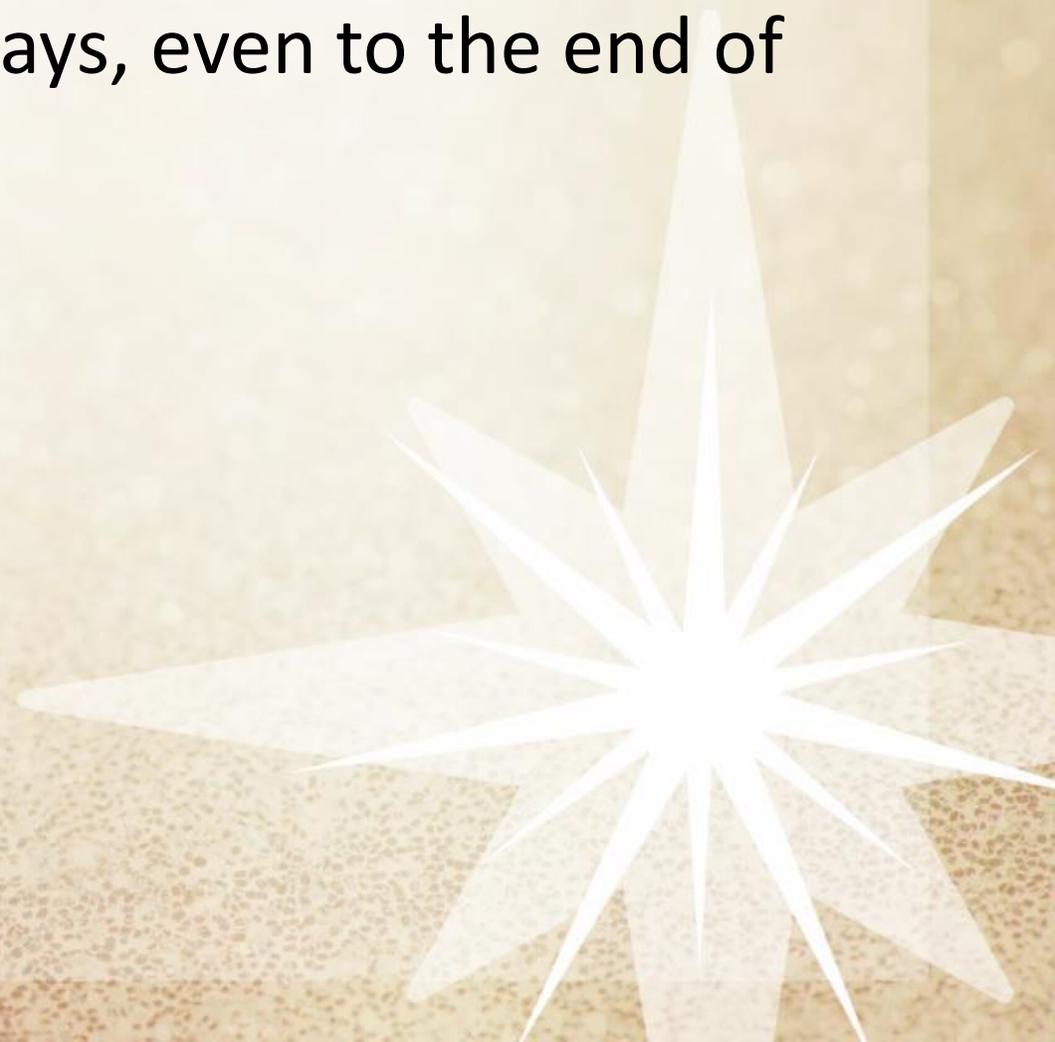
- Me
- Us



# Jesus Followers: Responding with Love

And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:20b NLT)

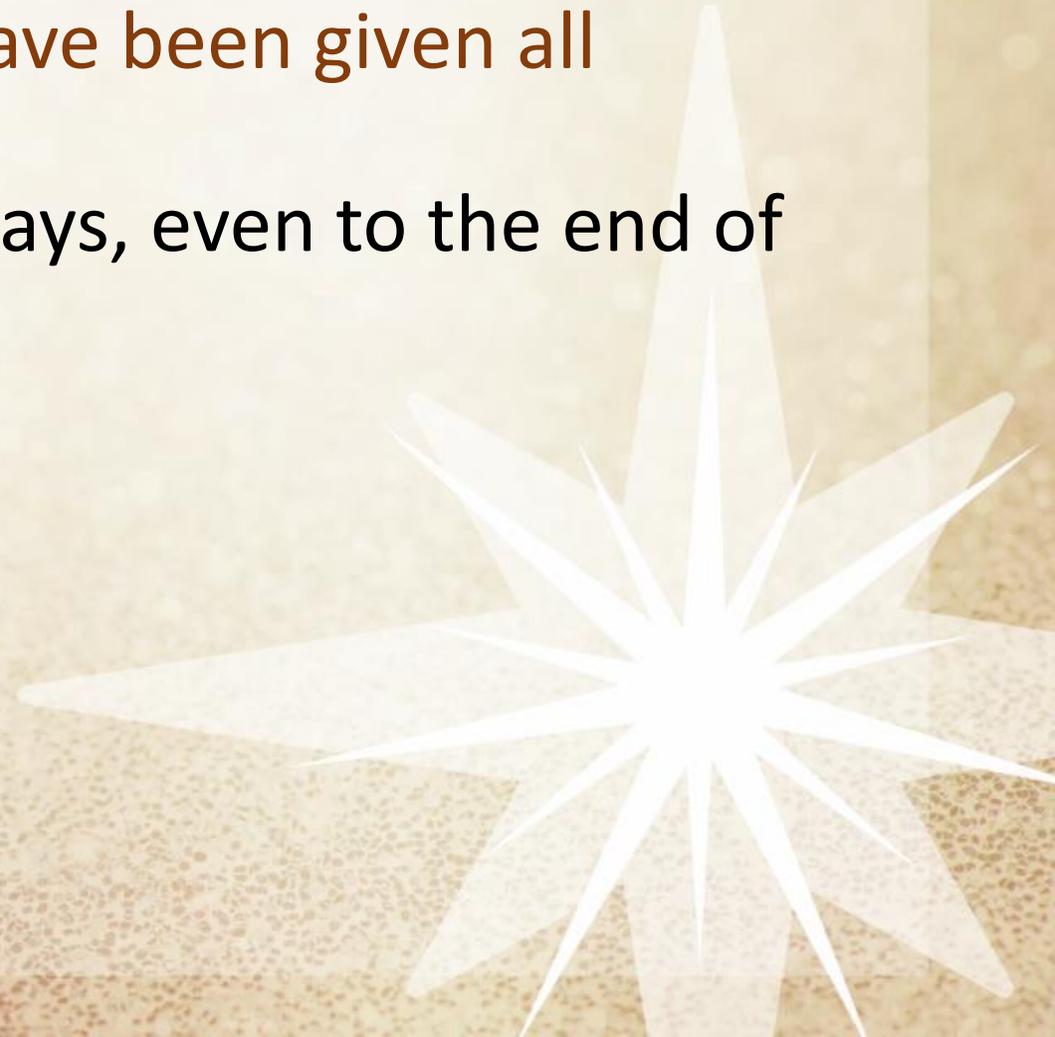


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Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth..."

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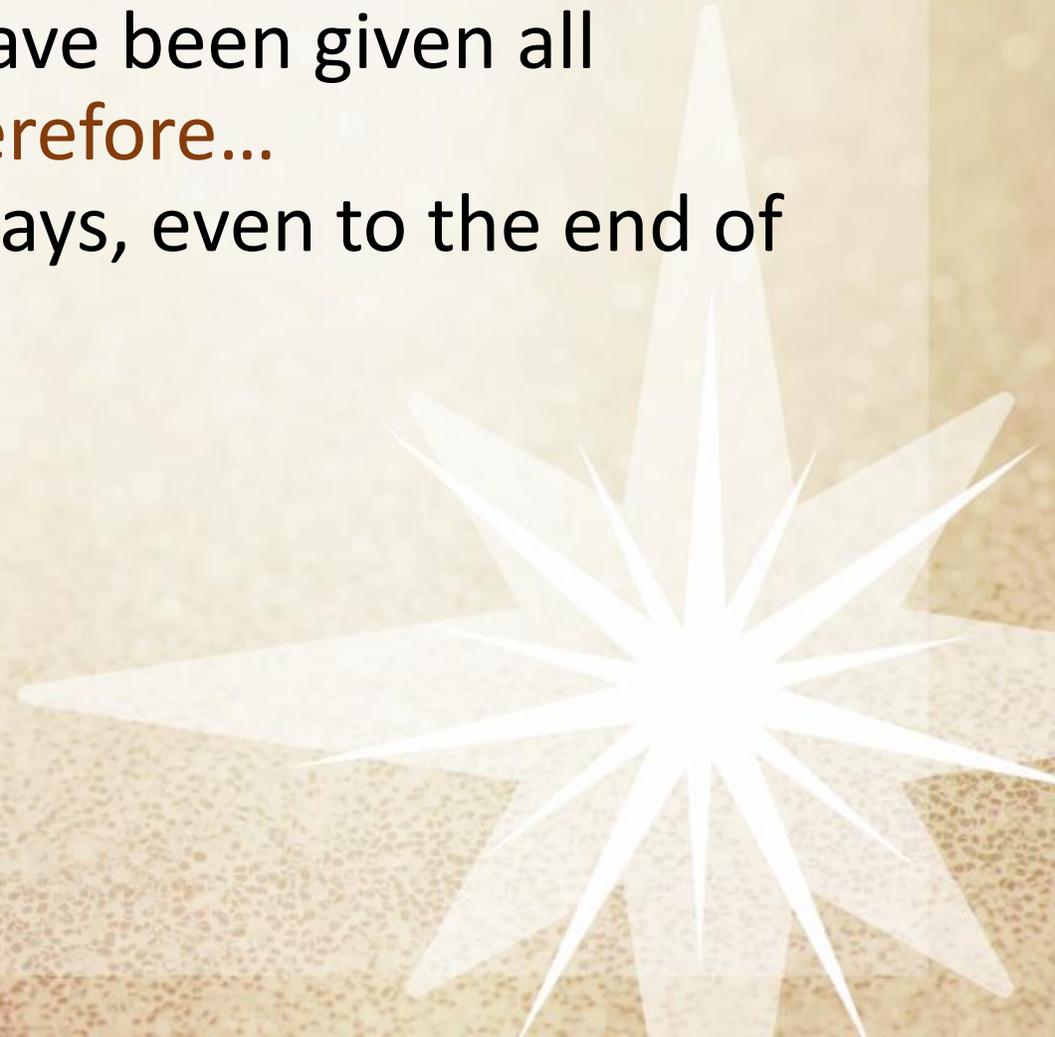


# Jesus Followers: Responding with Love

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **Therefore...**

And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

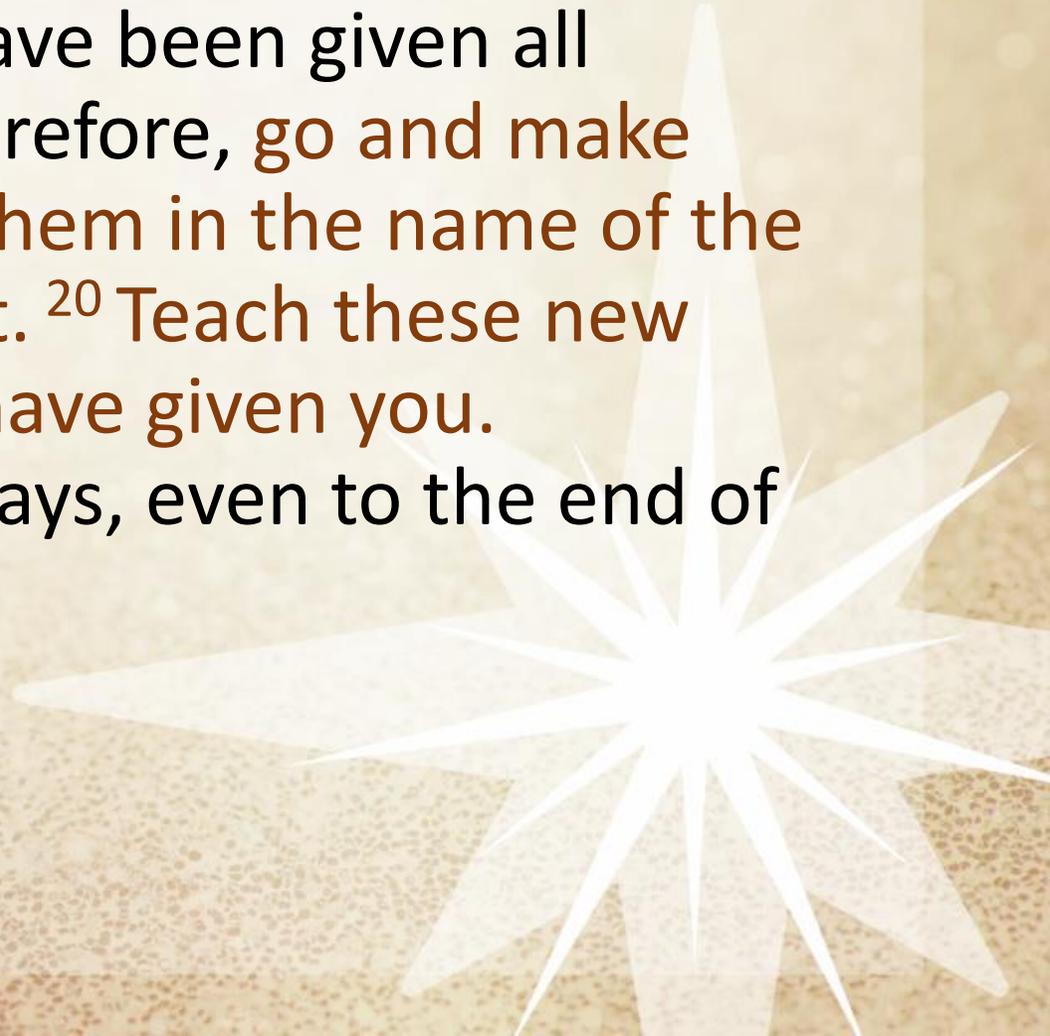
(Matthew 28: 18-19a, 20b NLT)



# Jesus Followers: Responding with Love

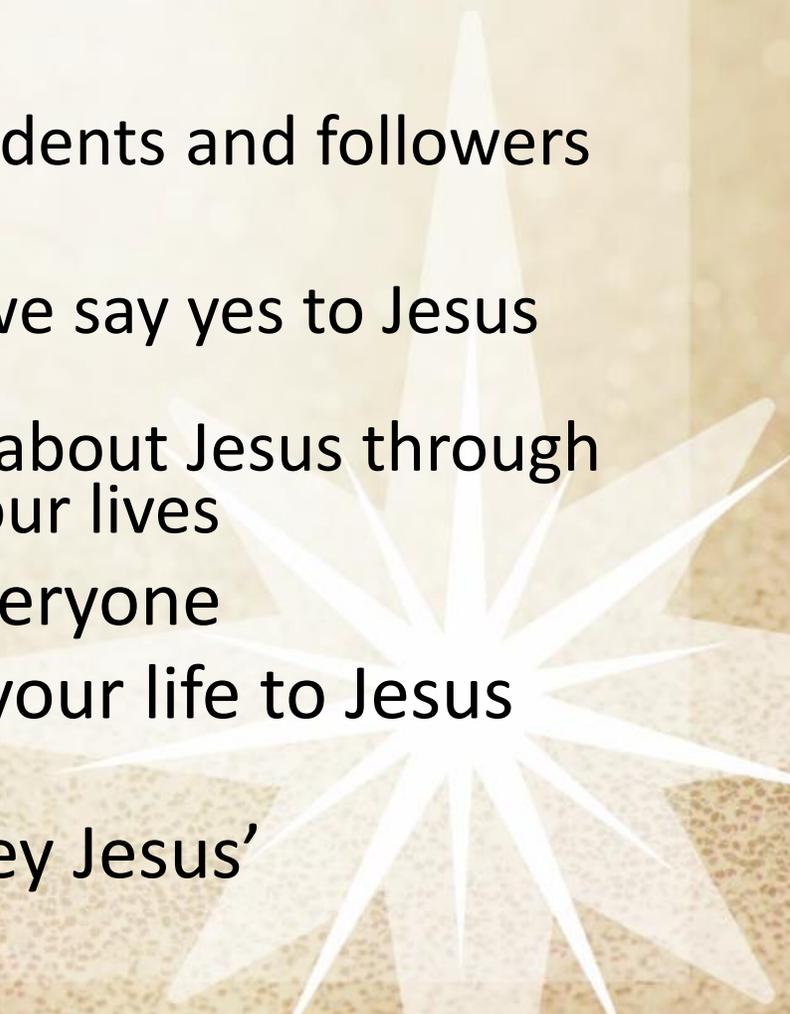
Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.** <sup>20</sup> **Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.** And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:18-20 NLT)



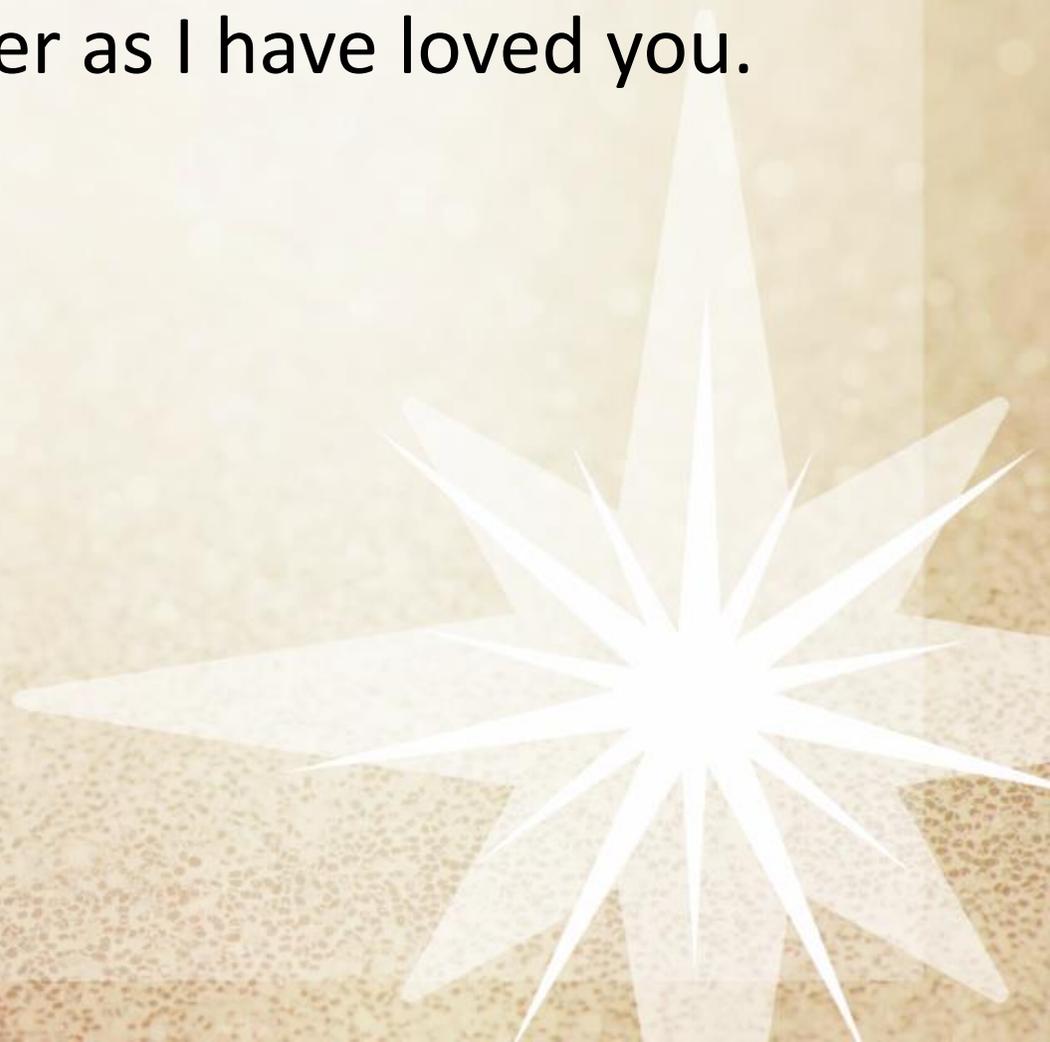
# What Is Jesus Asking Us to Do?

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.<sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

- Disciples...
    - Disciples are students and followers
  - Make disciples...
    - Our example—we say yes to Jesus and obey him
    - Teach the truth about Jesus through our words and our lives
  - All the nations=Everyone
  - Baptize—Entrust your life to Jesus and tell the world
  - Teach them to obey Jesus' commands...
- 

# What Did Jesus Command?

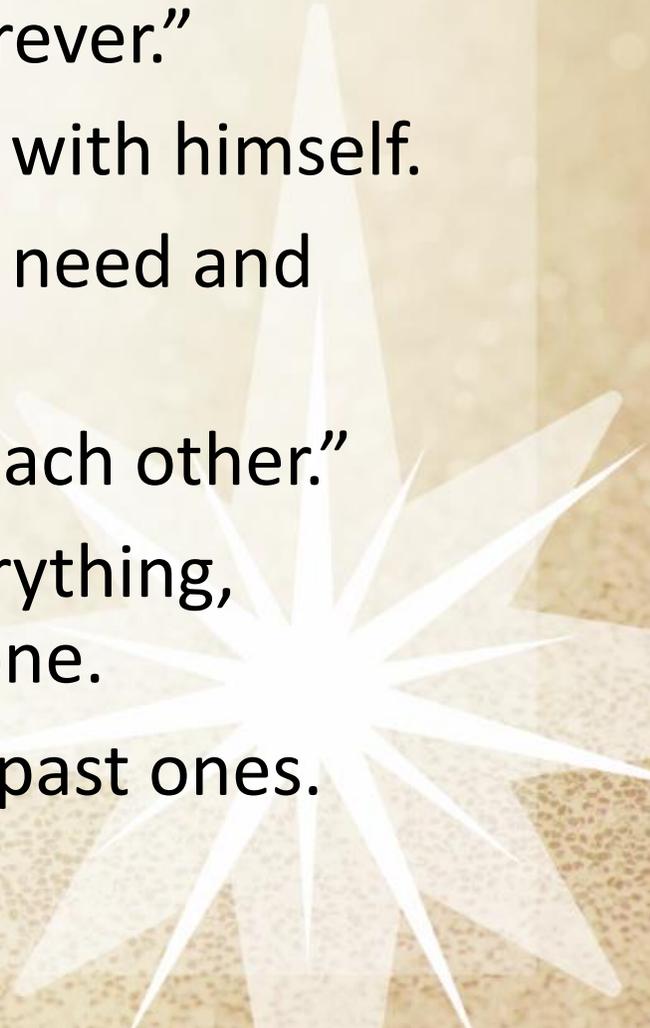
<sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
(John 15:12 NIV)



# The Disciples' Response and Ours

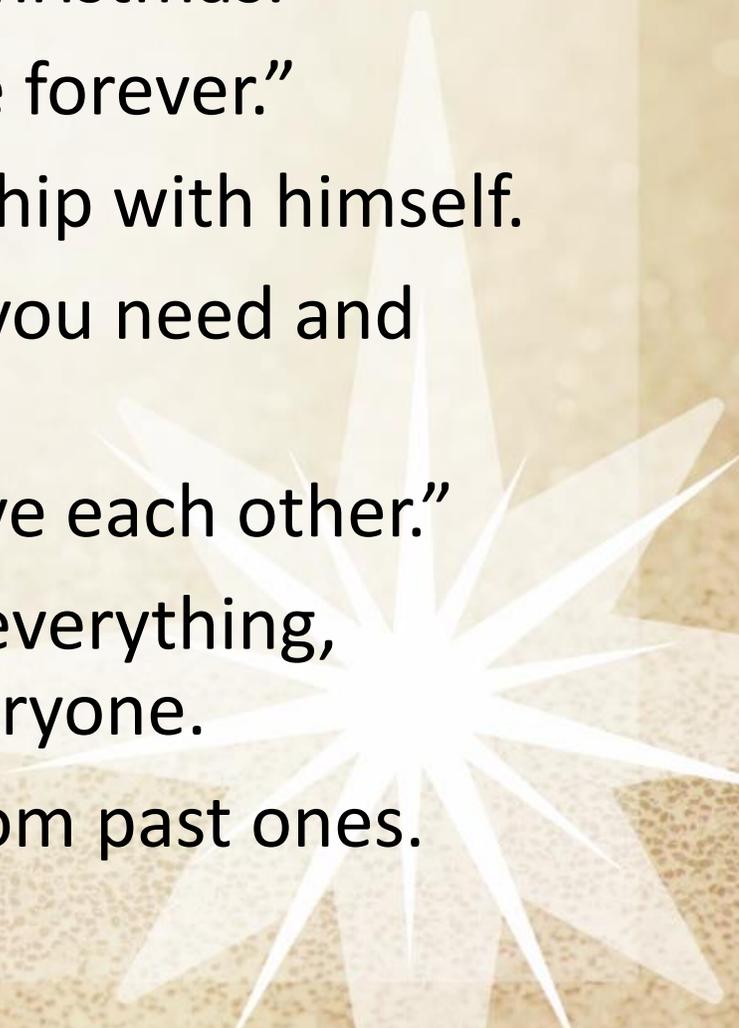


# Envision Christmas

- Imagine Jesus saying, “I’m with you and I will be forever.”
  - Imagine Jesus inviting you into deeper relationship with himself.
  - Imagine Jesus promising to provide everything you need and even what you want.
  - Imagine Jesus saying, “This is my command: Love each other.”
  - Imagine Jesus telling you that he’s in charge of everything, therefore he wants you to make disciples of everyone.
  - Reflect on how this Christmas looks different from past ones.
- 

# Challenge

In the next day or two, envision your upcoming Christmas.

- Imagine Jesus saying, “I’m with you and I will be forever.”
  - Imagine Jesus inviting you into deeper relationship with himself.
  - Imagine Jesus promising to provide everything you need and even what you want.
  - Imagine Jesus saying, “This is my command: Love each other.”
  - Imagine Jesus telling you that he’s in charge of everything, therefore he wants you to make disciples of everyone.
  - Reflect on how this Christmas looks different from past ones.
  - Look Jesus in the eyes and say yes.
- 



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