

December 7, 2014 – Second Sunday of Advent
“Might God”

Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders... And he will be called: ... Mighty God.

The Sunday before Christmas, a Sunday school class brought their teacher gifts. One little girl presented her package and innocently said, "Here, someone gave this to my mommy and she didn't want it."

God has given us an incredible gift ; A child is born to us, a son given to us. Though some don't want it. Maybe they don't fully understand Who this child is.

You may of heard about a time when Jesus was hanging out with His disciples and asked them a question. The question was, “Who do people say I am?” In other words, “what’s the word on the street about Me?” It is still a question to ponder today. Who is this guy, Jesus? A prophet, a teacher, a rabbi, something more... something less?

So the disciples told Him what they were hearing in the streets; “Well,” they said, “some believe you are John the Baptist (who by that time had been killed when Herod order his beheading), some say Elijah (who the Jews believed would come back to announce the coming of the Messiah), others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” Then Jesus asked them a question we must all answer, “but what about you, who do you say I am?” Peter spoke up immediately and answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

What was Jesus’ response to this? Did He say, “Peter don’t say that? I am not God and it would be blasphemy to call me the Son of God.” No, Jesus did not rebuke Him instead, He says, “God has blessed you, Simon son of Jonah, because just as Jonah is your father, God is my Father and my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from another human being. You are correct in saying I am the Messiah, Son of the living God.

Revelation 19:13, written by the apostle John tells us that one of the titles for Jesus was The Word of God. Then John writes in his gospel:

John 1:1, 14

In the beginning the Word (Christ) already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God...the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

[As John mentioned last week] 700 + years before the birth of Christ Isaiah writes this prophecy. That is the Holy Spirit working through Isaiah inspires him to write of a child that would be born to us - a Child of miraculous birth, born of a virgin. A son given to us – a Son of marvelous gift, on Him would rest true authority. A Child with a miraculous nature, for He would be called Mighty God. This infant would be humanity’s greatest

Child and God's greatest gift. The long-awaited Messiah would be born and would grow up in the dark surroundings of Galilee.

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

Matthew specifically states that Jesus fulfills this prophecy that God gave Isaiah (see Matt 4:14-16). The Child of Isaiah's prophecy is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. 700+ years later Peter recognizes Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Isaiah gives this Child four titles rich with divine symbolism. The Child's name expresses His marvelous nature. [John spoke last week on] the first name: Wonderful Counselor. He is a Wonderful One who gives wonderful counsel. Isaiah was expressing that this child, the one we now know as Jesus, is divine, therefore He is all-knowing, and so of course He is a Wonderful Counselor. God knows all things and He is a loving God, why wouldn't we trust the counsel of an all-loving, all-knowing Wonderful One. You will find His Counsel in the Scriptures; the same Scriptures that say this about Jesus the...

Colossians 2:3 NIV

Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The second title Isaiah gives the Messiah or the Christ - "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew, "Messiah." Both mean the Anointed One. - the second title given the Anointed One is Mighty God. It suggests the Divine Warrior, or as someone has said the "Hero divine," An All-powerful deliverer. He has super human ability, not simply because the Spirit of Almighty God rests upon Him in anointing, but because the very nature of deity resides within Him. He will be called "El Gibbor" (ghib-bore) = "The God mighty" (powerful/strong). That is how this name reads in Hebrew, "El Gibbor" and the Hebrew word "El" always means God, especially the Almighty. The Child would be divine and He would be almighty. Here is the divine attribute of omnipotence. Only Jesus of Nazareth fulfills this attribute.

Romans 1:4 AMP

And [as to His divine nature] according to the Spirit of holiness was openly designated the Son of God in power [in a striking, triumphant and miraculous manner] by His resurrection from the dead, even Jesus Christ our Lord (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Jesus Christ the Messiah came to give His life for the sin of the world. Remember when the angel appeared to Joseph and said...

Matthew 1:20-21

"Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus means, "the Lord Saves." And the name Isaiah means "The Eternal One is Salvation" and Isaiah uses his own name as a play on words. He says the child will be called "Mighty God" or the all-powerful Deliverer. He is the Divine Warrior who fights for our deliverance and salvation. The Lord saves, the eternal one is salvation. This Mighty God, "El Gibbor" is Jesus. He is the Divine Warrior who defeats all our enemies; sin, death, the devil.

All must put their faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus, the Eternal One is salvation. But He is not only our spiritual deliver forgiving our sin, He can deliver us from any trouble. If He came only to be our spiritual deliver that would be enough, that would already be more than we deserve. But praise Him, He does more, He delivers us from all we face.

He not only is the Wonderful Counselor who gives us wise counsel, but He is the God of might who can carry out His wise counsel.

Are you growing weary and losing heart? Are you facing some seemingly insurmountable difficulties? Is there some "impossible situation" in a relationship or circumstance that you are currently facing? Whenever God allows us to experience circumstances we think are too difficult, we need to...

Hebrews 12:1b-4

Run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping (fixing) our eyes on Jesus, the champion (warrior) who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

The Greek word for "fixing" (aphorao) literally means to turn our eyes away from those things which are nearby (e.g., our difficulties) and instead to steadfastly fix them on something else, in this case SOMEONE else! And one of the best ways to fix our eyes on Jesus is by meditating on the manifold truths inherent in Messiah's many majestic Names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. As Jeremiah testified...

Jeremiah 10:6

LORD, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power.

May our Father enable us by His "Spirit of grace" to turn our eyes away from our difficulty and instead to focus steadfastly on Messiah's great Name MIGHTY GOD. His name is full of power, Amen. Indeed, this great Name, EL GIBBOR, is for all of us in great need - He is now and forever our MIGHTY GOD, the One Who is eternally "MIGHTY TO SAVE" or as one of my favorite verses puts it...

Zephaniah 3:17

For the LORD your God is living among you.
He is a mighty savior.
He will take delight in you with gladness.
With his love, he will calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

Adrian Rodgers writes that Robert Louis Stevenson tells a story about passengers who were on a ship in a severe storm and in imminent danger of sinking. The passengers were whispering "Are we going down? Are we safe?" One passenger said, "I've got to find out," so he made his way topside across the heaving decks, to the pilot house, where the pilot of the ship had his hand firmly on the wheel. The pilot turned and saw the fear in the passenger's face and just smiled at him, not even speaking a word. On arriving below the once fearful passenger exclaimed "We're going to be all right. I've seen the face of the pilot, and he smiled at me."

What we need to do when we are crippled by fear caused by difficult circumstances is look away from the "stormy waves" and into the face of our Jesus, our MIGHTY GOD, the One Who is always mighty to save. We need to see the reassuring smile of our Savior Who alone is able to calm the storms simply by speaking these words to our heart - "Peace, be still!" But remember that while our MIGHTY GOD may calm the storm around us, more often He will calm the storm within us! Adrian Rodgers wrote of Stevenson's story "And I can tell you, friend, that He has sailed rougher seas than the one that you're in right now!" Corrie ten Boom said "Look at the world—you'll be distressed. Look within—you'll be depressed. Look at Christ—you'll be at rest." How difficult is your difficulty? The Name MIGHTY GOD begs the question - "Is anything too difficult for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14)

As the angel that appeared to Mary said (Luke 1:37), "nothing is impossible with God."

Jesus, the Mighty God Himself affirmed (Matthew 19:26) that "with God all things are possible."

Paul agrees that our MIGHTY GOD is "able to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. (How? According to His power that works [Greek = energeo ~ continually "energizes"] within us.)"

And so, as His beloved children, we too can say with Paul (Philippians 4:13), "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

Henry Ward Beecher said "Tears are often the telescope by which men see far into heaven." May our Teacher enable each of us to envision and lay hold of the "secret" of the sufficiency of Christ's power as we meditate on His great Name, El Gibbor.

There is a beautiful promise in Zephaniah 3:17 for all believers. The prophet records that "The LORD your God is in your midst. He is MIGHTY (Gibbor) TO SAVE. He will

take great delight in you. He will quiet you with His love (NLT = "With His love, He will calm all your fears."). He will rejoice over you with singing."

"What a word is this! God is in the midst of His people in all the majesty of His power! This presence alone ought to inspire us with peace and hope.

Therefore may we shout for joy. We not only have His presence, but "He is MIGHTY TO SAVE!" He is always saving: He takes His Name Jesus from it (Jesus: "The Lord Saves."). Let us not fear any danger for He is MIGHTY TO SAVE. He even will rejoice over us with singing. How incredibly wonderful is this? You know when God did His work of creating the universe, He did not sing, He simply said, "It is very good." But when He came and our redemption was purchased, then the Trinity felt joy and expressed it in song. Think of it and be astonished! Not only do we sing, "Joy to the World the Lord has come," but our Mighty God, our Savior Jesus sings over us. We who are His love, His joy, His rest, His song.

Can you imagine the day when we will meet around the throne of God, and the joy of our eternal Mighty God will be so high, that God, will burst out into an infinite godlike song!

Ephesians 3:18-19

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

May the immeasurable, unlimited, unconditional, deep love to us, teach us to love The Lord and to rejoice in Him, and to sing to Him now as we will forever.

He saves us from sin, and He can save us from any difficulty, He is El Gibbor, our All-powerful Deliverer.