

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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DECEMBER 17, 2017

“God’s Unspeakable Gift of Forgiveness”

2 Corinthians 9:15, Matthew 1:18-25

Two-time World Heavyweight Boxing Champion George Foreman not only sells grills; he has five girls and five boys. All of his sons bear his name: George Junior, George III, George IV, George V, and George VI. He likes to joke that he can never remember their names.

Joseph never had the privilege of choosing a name for Mary’s son because he technically was not the father. But he did have the honor of declaring that the baby would have the name Jesus as we just read in *vs. 21 and 25*.

Joseph had decided to distance himself from her and divorce her privately so as not to shame her publicly. That night as he tumbled into a troubled sleep, something remarkable happened. Listen to *verses 20-21*. Remember he hadn’t yet heard what Gabriel had said to *Mary in Luke 1:37*.

Joseph is to take Mary as his wife, become the legal father and name the baby “*Jesus*.” The baby’s name was not to be Joseph Junior, but just Jesus.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

1. AN ORDINARY NAME

Those who knew Him best in the Gospels simply referred to Him as **Jesus** some **600 times**.

2. AN EXTRAORDINARY MISSION

Jesus is the Greek form of a Hebrew name, translated as **Joshua** or Jeshua, which means “*Jehovah is our salvation*.” The mission of Jesus is to save people from their sins.

Because we’re sinners, we need a Savior. The Savior’s work of “*saving*” would have caused the people of that day to be startled because they believed that God alone was their Deliverer. (*Isaiah 43:3*) We can Give Thanks Unto God For His Unspeakable Gift of Forgiveness In Jesus our Lord and Savior

When I think of the gift of **FORGIVENESS**, Peter comes to my mind when he knowingly denied the Lord at Pilates judgement hall after Peter had made a vow of Loyalty in *Matt.26: 33,35*. Then we read in *Vs. 69-70 his denial of Jesus*.

Each of us... If we are honest... have been where Peter was? A mistake... A poor Choice... words said ...actions done... And for the Believer... the one who is in relationship with Jesus... Just like Peter, immediately after the sin we come to our senses and are filled with remorse and regret...

I believe we find some very important answers in *John 21* where Jesus appears to His disciples who were again fishing on the Sea of Galilee, and there He comes face to face with brother Peter.

WHAT DO WE LEARN HERE?

- ⇒ The first step in forgiveness is realizing that Jesus is still there.
- ⇒ The second step is letting Jesus heal the pain.
- ⇒ A third key is to move on and move forward.

Implications of the Incarnation

- ◆ **Admit you’re a sinner and ask the Savior to save you**
- ◆ **Give and forgive this Christmas**
- ◆ **Hold on to hope when you don’t know how to cope**

As the angel said to Joseph His name shall be called Jesus and He will save the people from their sins. Have you experienced that forgiveness? Have you forgiven that person who has hurt and wronged you greatly? Let get that settled today as we **PRAY!**