

Sermon Notes
“Longings from Afar: Joseph”
(Mt 1:18-2:23)
Dec 6, 2020

Peace comes as God walks us through the subtle steps of his plan

➤ **A new vantage point (Mt 1:18-25)**

‘Jesus’ _____

‘Immanuel’ _____

➤ **Journey: Longer than expected**

Going away: Exile

Coming out: Exodus

Waiting in obscurity: Advent

➤ **Peace more meaningful than imagined**

Saved in deepest of places

God works in quiet places

“Can anything good come from...?” (Jn 1:46)

Small Group Discussion:

- Consider how God may be working in your life. How could His plan be different than you expected? How does He want to change your vantage point on what He is doing?

- Take time to meditate on the names of God in the flesh – Jesus & Immanuel. What does “forgiveness of sins” and “God with us” mean to you? How does that change your circumstances?

- Think through the events in your life. In what ways can you relate to Josephs long journey – exile, exodus and obscurity.

- Peace is found when we are attentive to God’s presence in our life and engaging Him each moment. How may he be calling you to meet Him this week?

- Regardless of our circumstances, God promises peace. What is happening around you that is bringing anxiousness. How are the events of life disrupting you and stealing your peace?

- Consider how God is working in quiet and subtle ways. What does that say to you? How does that encourage you; that is how is God telling you that ‘much good’ is at work in you?

