

Advent Sermon Guide – O Come O Come Emmanuel

In this powerful message about rediscovering the true meaning of Christmas, Pastor Jason Ramos reminds us that beneath the festive decorations, movies and cultural traditions, lies a profound story of hope and redemption. Through an exploration of the ancient hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel" and the Biblical narrative of Christ's birth, he guides us to understand Jesus not just as a historical figure, but as our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace — the greatest gift ever given to humanity.

This sermon emphasizes:

- Our modern culture often obscures the original meaning of Christmas through materialism and self-centered celebrations
- The historical context of Christmas was a time of captivity, suffering and longing for a Messiah
- Jesus came as the fulfillment of prophecy — born to save people from their sins
- The name Jesus (Yeshua) means to rescue, save, defend, free, preserve, avenge, deliver and help
- True peace and fulfillment come not from circumstances but from receiving and knowing Jesus

Key Scriptures:

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Table Discussion Questions:

1. What cultural "seasonings" — both good and challenging — tend to distract you from focusing on Jesus during the Christmas season?
2. Pastor Jason shared about hearing God's voice regarding career decisions. When was a time you needed to seek God's counsel for a decision — big or small?
3. The sermon mentioned that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. What area of your life do you need His counsel in right now?

4. How does understanding Jesus as a Mighty God who fights for you change your perspective on current challenges?
5. Pastor Jason shared the story about his son asking Jesus for help while batting. How can we encourage children to seek Jesus in their everyday experiences?
6. The sermon emphasized Jesus as our Prince of Peace. What's the difference between circumstantial peace and the peace that Jesus offers?
7. How has your understanding of who Jesus is evolved over time — particularly in seeing Him as Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace?
8. Pastor Jason spoke about his experience with his sister and God's peace. How have you experienced God's peace in difficult family situations?
9. What practical steps can you take this Christmas season to "recenter" on Jesus and help others do the same?
10. The sermon ended with the image of children not seeing their gifts right in front of them. What gifts from God might you be overlooking in your own life?