

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS — PART 1
MATTHEW 1:18-24

***Did you know? God wants you home.
That is the reason for Christmas.***

- There's something deep within each of us that longs to be at a place called HOME.

***We all know that Joseph and Mary were
far away from home that first Christmas.***

HOME IS OFTEN ELUSIVE

- The ***shepherds***, because of the nature of their work, were almost always far from home.
- The ***Magi*** had wandered away from their homes so they could worship King Jesus.
- ***Jesus*** was literally always far from home when He was here because He came all the way from heaven.
- There's a longing for home inside each of us that no human home can satisfy.

This earth is not our home; our home is actually heaven.

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT HOME

1. The truth is we are homesick for God.

- Even if we could return to a place where everything seemed perfect and complete, we would find that someone is always missing . . . that someone is God Himself.

2. The truth is God is homesick for us.

- We are waiting for the bridegroom to come take us, and He wants to do exactly that!

3. The truth is we are all searching for home.

WE ARE ALL RUNAWAYS HOPING TO GET HOME SOON

- Picture the prodigal son who was so far from home that he didn't think the father would ever take him back. **Luke 15:11-31**
- What the son doesn't know is that the father has never stopped looking for his drifting son.
- Christmas is all about God's homecoming and us coming home with Him.

***That is why Jesus came in the first place . . .
to take us home!***

JESUS IS IMMANUEL, WHICH MEANS “GOD WITH US”

- When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Creator of the universe came to the home of His wayward kids to take His wayward kids home to His heaven.
- God chose to come live in our neighborhood so that one day we could live with Him in His heavenly home.

Do you want to be home for Christmas?

Run to Jesus. He has always been running to you!