

**Wednesday Word Meditation Material #39 (December 23, 2020)**

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 126 & 109 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Matthew 1:21
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*Savior Losing Balance*)
  1. Matthew 1:21 is part of God's special message delivered in a dream for Joseph who was the human father of Jesus Christ in order to explain and command the whole process of Jesus' arrival to this earth in Matthew 1:20~23.
  2. **In this verse, we can find the fact that Jesus came as the Savior who lost balance.**
  3. First of all, let us look at the first part of this verse: "She will bear a son." His betrothed, Mary, with whom Joseph promised marriage but did not come together, had a child in her womb. God let Joseph know the child is a "Son." Then, it is necessary for Joseph to give a name to the child after his birth. God Himself directly gave the name for the child. **That was "JESUS."** Jesus is the Greek expression of Hebraic name, "Joshua." Joshua means "savior." So, Jesus means "Savior" by itself. **God added the reason why He gave this name to "Jesus" (Savior): "For He will save." Yes, Jesus came for salvation.**
  4. Then, for whom did Jesus come? Can you see "His people"? Jesus came for His people. When Jesus came to earth, He played three roles; Prophet, Priest, and King. Among these, "King" rules over people. Jesus, as the King of whole world, came for His people. **The meaning of this is like: Jesus came to earth only for His people. He came to save His people "from their sins," i.e., from the sins of Jesus' people but nothing else.**
  5. When we call Jesus as Savior, we may say that He came to earth to save all the people on earth or we may hear or listen that kind of expression. But, they are not the Biblical expression. Jesus never said like that. Jesus came "only for His people." Then, He came to them to save them from their sins, the sins from which they were separated from God, rather than saving them from their life matters (eating and living), freeing them out of their safety issues, and providing success of life and prosperity. In that salvation, Jesus restored their status as God's people, has guided them to live as God's people, and will let them live in heaven after Jesus' second coming (or God's call for individual Christians to their eternal home). **Therefore, Jesus came to earth only for those who believed, believe, and will believe in Jesus as their Savior. After crucifixion and resurrection, He firmly set them on the salvation.**
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
  1. Do you think Matthew 1:21 draw Jesus as the Savior who is a one-sided or lost balance?
  2. If so, do you think it is possible that if you save only your two children out of a sinking ship by using your small boat (maximum capacity: 3 persons), then people around you call you one-sided and losing balance?
  3. **Rather, can we give thanks to God for His special grace for us so that we can know, acknowledge, confess, and rely on Jesus Christ, "the Savior losing Balance," as our Savior in our life context?**
  4. We will have a moment to rethink, deeply consider, and evaluate Jesus our Savior, and cordially give thanks to God during Christmas Day Family Worship. Until that moment, why don't we meditate this with all our effort and possible ways?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.