***What Do I Want For Christmas?***

**A Love Stronger Than My Pain**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Matthew 1:18 (ESV)**Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 1:19 (ESV)**And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

**Matthew 1:20 (ESV)**But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

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

**Matthew 1:22 (ESV)**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**Matthew 1:23 (ESV)**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**Matthew 1:24 (ESV)**When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

**Matthew 1:25 (ESV)**but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus.

**His love is stronger than …**

1. **The Pain of Heartbreak**

**Matthew 1:18 (ESV)**Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 1:19 (ESV)**And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

**Psalm 34:18 (ESV)**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

**Psalm 34:19 (ESV)**Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

1. **The Pain of Shame**

**Matthew 1:20 (ESV)**But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 10:11 (ESV)**For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

1. **The Pain of Isolation**

**Matthew 1:22 (ESV)**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**Matthew 1:23 (ESV)**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**Romans 8:38 (ESV)**For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

**Romans 8:39 (ESV)**nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.