



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 17 December 2023
#3 An Angel appears to Joseph

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

Please read Isaiah 6.1, 5-8; Isaiah 7.14; Isaiah 9.6-7

2. Referring to the Isaiah 6 verses, in atoning for Isaiah's sin, why do you think the use of a burning coal *'from the altar'* is symbolically significant?
3. Following his experience of sin-cleansing by God – why do you think Isaiah is so willing to be sent by the Lord as a messenger of God's word to the people?
4. How does this challenge us in our attitude to being the 'sent ones' of God in our world?

Please read Matthew 1.17-25

5. Referring to v17, what is the Old Testament understanding of the title, *Messiah* (Mashiach in Hebrew)?
6. In the New Testament, when the *writers refer to Jesus as 'Jesus the Messiah' or 'Jesus the Christ'* (same title in Greek) – what are they saying about Jesus?
7. In verse 19, Joseph is clearly conflicted – why?
8. In verse 20, what do you think of how the Lord communicates with Joseph?
9. In verses 20-21, what is the meaning of the name *Jesus*? And why is this name uniquely appropriate to this *Jesus the Messiah*?
10. In verses 24-25, what do you think of how Joseph responds to his dream?

11. How is God speaking to you this Advent?
12. What is God saying to you this Advent?
13. How will you respond to God's word?