**Immanuel – *God with Us, but are you with him?***

Matthew 1:23 – (Angel speaking to Joseph in a dream.)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

*Share story of me and Alanie (with her permission).*

 **In the beginning, Alanie didn’t really care for me.**

 **I kept pursuing her, allowing that development for relationship to occur.**

 **As I was constantly pursuing her, her trust began to build.**

 **She then fell in love and knew that she couldn’t do life without me.**

**GOD IS CONSTANTLY IN PURSUIT OF US!**

John 6:44 as Jesus is speaking to the jews and says,

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

You see, we constantly seek love, money, fame, and relationships, because to some of us that is important, but the Heavenly Father seeks us, because we are important to him.

We see this before God even sends his son to earth with the Israelites.

Talk about the constant cycle that the Israelites went through:

 Rebellion, Repentance, Restoration.

\*\*I find that some of the most rebellious people in the bible are the Israelites.

Before Jesus, judges were sent to deliver people from chaos, power, strife.

Ehud – Judges 3

 The bible says in Judges 3 that due to the evil doings of the Israelites, the Lord allowed strengthening of King Eglon which was the king of Moab. Israelites began crying for freedom, and God heard their cries, so He raised up a Benjamite by the name of Ehud (left-handed), who crafted him a double-edged sword because Ehud had a plan. He was going to sneak into the king’s chamber while it was just him and the king and kill the king. Which is exactly what happened, the king died, and Israel won that day because they submitted to God’s will.

But now, we don’t have to wait for a deliverer, because a deliverer has come and save us all. We must submit to his will and plan for our life.

He wanted right relationship with us so much that He sent his only son. He is the reason for this season.

So…

We must invite him into our heart, repent of our sins by confessing with our mouth, so that He can do a great work in us by restoring us to who God has created us to be.

So, my question for you today, God with us, but are you with Him?

Salvation call.