



Worship Guide for December 6, 2020

Sermon Notes

The Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew 1

There are, I believe, longings in the human heart that have been placed there by our Creator. We long to belong. We long to be blessed. We long to be led, and to be led well. We long (whether we acknowledge it or not) to know our Creator, to have a relationship with the Transcendent God. All of these longings can ultimately be filled only by Him – only in Him.

Which brings us to Matthew 1. There are parts of the Bible we tend to skim over or completely skip because they are filled with details that seem unimportant and names we cannot pronounce. But as we've just seen in Psalm 119, every word of Scripture is breathed out by God and is useful for us. This includes the genealogies that are found throughout the Bible. The 'begats' are important! In them we see the promises of God fulfilled, we see the purposes of God fulfilled, we see the grace and mercy of God displayed, and we see God himself come and take up residence with us in order to rescue us and meet the longings He gave us. All of this is seen in the first chapter of the New Testament: *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.* All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).* Matthew 1:21–23

Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. There in the lineage of Jesus is a man who pretended his wife was his sister and gave her to a godless king, a man who fathered children by his daughter-in-law, a Canaanite prostitute, an adulterer who had his lover's husband killed. **The genealogy of Jesus includes** polygamists, cheaters and liars. It also includes men and women who did their best to stay faithful to God in the most difficult of circumstances. The genealogy of Jesus is filled with the godly and the godless.

This boring part of the Bible that we often skip is filled with really good news for us. **The genealogy of Jesus shows us that God keeps his promises and fulfills his purposes in ways we could never imagine and with people we should never choose. Jesus welcomes flagrant but forgiven sinners into his family, he gives our lives purpose and meaning, and ultimately brings us back to where we belong.** Sam Allberry said it well: "Matthew's genealogy includes the outcast, scandalous and foreigner. The family Jesus comes from anticipates the family he came for."

From Abraham to Christ – Our Family

From David to Christ – Our King

From the Exiles to Christ – Our Home

Jesus the Christ – Our God with us to save us

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

What do we learn about the gospel from the genealogy recorded by Matthew? How does this genealogy proclaim the good news of the gospel?

How does reading the Old Testament help you in understanding who you are? Who Jesus is? Which part of this genealogy resonates most with you and why?

In what ways are you intentionally preparing your heart for the Christmas season this year? In this unique year, what are the greatest threats seeking to distract your heart?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

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