

Sermon Notes

The Genealogy of Jesus: The Power to Bring Us Home

Matthew 1 (pew Bible pg. 807)

God made a promise to Abraham that through his family blessing would come for the whole world (Genesis 12:1–13; 22:15–18). God also made a promise to David that his kingdom would be universal and eternal (2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 89:3–4; Isaiah 9:6–7). We can know this blessing through faith in the One who is the fulfillment of these promises. Matthew wants us to understand that apart from understanding these Old Testament promises, nothing in the New Testament, including Jesus, makes any real sense.

The genealogy of Jesus shows us that God keeps his promises and fulfills his purposes in ways we could never imagine; he does it through people we would never choose; and he does it through events and circumstances that seem impossible. The genealogy we see at the beginning of Matthew's gospel reminds us of God's faithfulness; it is a demonstration of God's grace; and it displays God's power at work on behalf of his people in midst of their darkness and desperation.

Matthew begins with a genealogy to remind us of the faithfulness of God

This genealogy attests to Yahweh's faithfulness over the centuries, never forgetting or abandoning his promises to Abraham, to David, and to his covenant people. The same faithfulness of God we see in the ups and downs of Jesus' family tree is the faithfulness that upholds us through the ups and downs of our lives.

Matthew begins with a genealogy to demonstrate the grace of God

The family tree of Jesus is filled with the wayward, the immoral, the rebellious, and the outcast. Every member of our Savior's family was a recipient of God's amazing grace. That same grace is extended today to the wayward, the immoral, the rebellious, and the outcast.

Matthew begins with a genealogy to demonstrate the power of God

The third section of Matthew's genealogy is "from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ". It is the darkest period of Israel's history, 600 years of forgotten dates, unrecognized names, and the heavy hand of God's judgment on his people. Yet the power of God is also at work bringing about the supernatural birth of our Rescuer who leads lost sinners out of their dark captivity and brings them home.

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:

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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