



Series: The Gifts of Christmas

Passage: Matthew 1:1-17

Title: The Genealogy of Jesus

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper, 12/15/2024

Discussion Starter – Do you have relatives, either current, or from prior generations that you would consider to be a “black sheep”? Do you consider yourself different from them? By what standard?

Read Matthew 1:1-3

1. Why does Matthew begin his gospel with a genealogy of Jesus?
2. What is the significance of identifying Jesus as the “Son of David” and the Son of Abraham”?
3. Many of these names are hyper-links to backstories on the characters. How does knowledge of the Old Testament provide a more meaningful understanding of New Testament passages?

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 15:4-6

4. What qualities did Abraham possess when God called him? What purpose did God plan to fulfill in Abraham?
5. How many years passed between Genesis 12 and Genesis 15? Had Abraham faithfully trusted God during those years?
 - a. What promises has God given to you? Have you always responded faithfully to His promises? Has God been faithful?
 - b. Why does God keep His promises to you, Abraham, or any individual?
6. What stories of dis-loyalty, deception, lying, manipulation, and sin does the bible record in the lives of the Jewish fathers listed in Matthew 1:1-3?

Read Matthew 1:4-17

7. What 4 women are listed in this genealogy, (prior to Mary)? What is unusual about their being identified in this genealogy of the Messiah?
8. What promise does God make to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16?
9. What is the general testimony of the lives of the Kings listed after David? How did they lead their nation? How was their walk with god?
10. Define “Grace” in your own words? How is it used in the Bible?
11. Why did God’s perfect Savior not descend from a righteous ancestry, (at least marginally better than average)?
 - c. What does the listing of Jesus’ ancestry reveal about the depravity of man and the grace of God?
 - d. How does our ancestry and immediately family affect God’s gift of grace to us? How does it affect our acceptance of His grace?
 - e. Have you ever traded the gracious gift of a Godly life for a bowl of beans, (as Esau)?
 - f. How can we best respond to God’s grace?