

Teaching Notes

For the next three weeks we are going to take a break from James and put our focus on Christ and Christmas.

When we think of how big of a deal Christmas is, it is interesting that only two gospels tell the story.

Luke is the classic story of Christmas that most of us read.
I will be sharing from Luke for our online Christmas service.
**Remember, no services on Christmas Day so you and our staff can spend it enjoying time with family and friends.

Over the next 3 weeks, we are going to look at the Gospel of Matthew's account of the birth of Christ.

**Each Gospel has a different purpose and...
...therefore a different approach.**

It is important and helpful to realize...

Matthew writes to Jews and he wants them to know...

Jesus is the Messiah which means the anointed one.

Jesus is the King, the rightful heir and true sovereign.

Even today the true king must come through the true royal line.

So...

Matthew will use the genealogy to show that Jesus, this newborn king is the fulfillment of all the Jews were looking for.

People are always looking for leadership.

A leader helps you collectively know who you are, where you are going, and why you are going there.

The problem is—human leadership is flawed.

No matter how good they are, they are not good enough.

You see the campaign promises and grand visions...

...It all sounds amazing!

...Until you realize it is just another broken person...

...trying to lead a bunch of other broken people.

Having a king can be great...

...But there is one really bad thing about a king...he is human.

But Jesus is different...

Big idea:

Jesus is a new kind of king who has come to establish a new kind of kingdom.

In this newborn king's kingdom is where we can find...

- actual leadership and integrity
- true identity and purpose
- And real justice and hope.

The theme and title of our Christmas season:

A Newborn King, A New Kind of Kingdom

Matthew shows that Jesus the Messiah is...

...the servant leader, the sovereign ruler, the rightful king.

This world has been waiting for.

So this morning we are going to begin where most kings begin...

...a genealogy.

Most kings that come to the throne peacefully are born into it.

And Jesus' family line can be authenticated...

(After 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed, all the historical records were also destroyed and no one else could at this time make a provable claim as the king of the Jews.)

Matthew is establishing Jesus as a royal successor and rightful heir to the throne of David's kingdom.

Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Matthew begins with the two pillars of the genealogy.

Abraham and David.

These are arguably two of the most important men in the OT...

...But they are specifically...

... two men God made special promises to.

If you remember from Genesis, Abraham was promised that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed.

Abraham was the beginning of the Jewish nation.

Father Abraham!

...So Jesus is a Jew.

Then there is David.

...David wanted to build a house for God...

...But God said "no..."

...But I appreciate your heart so much I will build YOU a house!"

II Samuel 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.

So the Son of David was the promised, coming king.
Matthew will use the title "Son of David" 10 times in his gospel.

David was the great king of Israel and God promised that through his line the future messiah king would come.

Jesus is the Son of David...BUT...He is a better David.

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

If you have been with us through Genesis...

...we have seen this part so far!

3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her ^[b]who had been the wife of Uriah.

So we follow the line from Judah whose name means "praise"...
...To David and we find the description "the king."

...And that gives us the clear clue...this is a royal line.

But this royal line is made up of some unlikely characters...

Jesus genealogy and therefore His kingdom is not just for men and it is not just for perfect people.

One of the most unique parts is the 4 women included:
There are four “by’s”.

Tamar is the first...

“Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar”

Short story...

Tamar slept with her father in law Judah because he failed to take care of her rights as a widow.

This man did not lead his family well or take care of the needs of his daughter in law by providing his son to her.

This was a strong and persistent women who did what she thought she had to do to continue the family line.

...And this family line becomes part of the kingly line.

Jesus kingdom is for those who have not been taken care of.

The next “by” is 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab,

Rahab was not a Jew and she was a prostitute living in Jericho.

Joshua sent spies to spy out the land and they found lodging in her place.

But when the king of Jericho came looking for the spies.
She lied to him.

And she made an agreement with them that she and her family in her house would be spared.

Another strong female leader...

She is a woman who heard about God, and made the choice to trust the people of God and become a follower of God.

What does this show us?

Jesus' kingdom is not just for Jews or religious, good people".

You can be part of the family of God and part of the purpose of God Jew or not, good or moral or not.

People that don't know much about God are welcome.

People that have a sketchy past are welcome.

People that are looking for a life for themselves and their family are welcome.

And being part of this kingdom changes you...

So...Rahab joined up with the Jews and married Salmon.

...And she ends up having a baby named Boaz.

Boaz grows up to be a wealthy, upstanding man in his community. But he doesn't have a wife.

And we come upon our next "by"

Boaz begot Obed by Ruth

To make a long story short

Ruth again was not a Jew.

In fact Ruth was a Moabite widow and the daughter in law of a Jewess named Naomi.

Naomi was a widow who had also lost her two sons.

Ruth was married to one of her sons.

Ruth chose to stay with Naomi.

Ruth was a faithful friend and a hardworking woman.

Naomi was bitter and had no one, but Ruth stuck by her.

Ruth ends up working in a field and impressing Boaz.

Boaz finds that she is a relative and a widow.

And Boaz demonstrates great love and grace by being her kinsman redeemer and marrying this Moabite woman.

Ruth is another strong woman who chose to trust God and God's people.

She showed herself faithful to Naomi and found blessing and help from the Lord.

Jesus' kingdom is for the grieving, the broken, and the hopeless.

It is for people that have been hurt.

It is for people that seem to be without hope.

And through this line came David the great king.

Though David was a great king, he was not a perfect man.

And his failure is also listed here as the last “by”.

David the king begot Solomon by her ^[b]who had been the wife of Uriah.

David had a child with a married woman.

She is only referred as her who had been the wife of Uriah

You don't miss the point that David slept with a married woman.

And if you remember the story, her name is Bathsheba.

She was bathing on the top of a roof...

When David saw her, he brought her over and had sex with her while her husband Uriah fought in the battle for David.

David had her husband killed and took Bathsheba as his wife. He thought it was secret but God knew and called him out.

Jesus' kingdom is for sinners and failures.

And then several kings are listed some good, some not so good.

7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam was a fool who split the kingdom

Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot ^[c]Asa.

8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah started off good, but ended being judged by God for trying to take the priests job.

9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a great king.

...He had a horrible son...

10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot [d]Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. **11** Josiah begot [e]Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

Manasseh did repent in prison, Josiah was a good king, and by God's grace died before the judgment of Babylon

Jesus' kingdom is for the good and the bad, the great and the horrible.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. **13** Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. **14** Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. **15** Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

Here are a bunch of random people most of whom we don't know much about...

Jesus' kingdom is for the nobody's and the not that important.

16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So Joseph the step-father of Jesus is at the end of the line.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

This genealogy demonstrates Jesus is the true son of David
And Matthew re-emphasizes this with the 14 generations.

There are people that he skips which is not uncommon with Jewish genealogies.

But, why 14? David's name in Hebrew adds up to 14.

And we are reminded just like we read in...

Galatians 3:8 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

This is the lineage of a king of a different kind of kingdom.

It is a kingdom for men and women,

- sinners and saints,
- broken failures and great successes,
- it is for the hurting and hurtful
- For the fools and the wise,
- gentiles and jews,
- rich and poor,
- nobody's and somebody's,
- servants and royalty.

Whoever you are, this newborn king is for you.

Whatever you have gone through, you have a place in this new kind of kingdom.

Jesus is the king we have been looking for.

Jesus is the king we need.

Jesus is the king that will bring change, if you let him.

The sinner is forgiven.

The fool becomes wise.

The failures have second chances.

The poor are made rich

The hurting are comforted

Even the gentiles become family

And the nobody's become somebody.