

**There Is More to the Story:  
The Unpredictable & Messy Family of Jesus  
December 10, 2023**

**Introduction:**

Text: Matthew 1:1-17

**Big Idea:** Christmas is not simply about a birth but a \_\_\_\_\_ meant to bring hope to each person in every family.

**#1-Jesus' birth is rooted in \_\_\_\_\_ (1)**

- NOT "once upon a time" but "the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ..."
- Why is this important?
  - Everything we celebrate at Christmas hinges on the reality of Jesus of Nazareth being the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Christmas is the divine \_\_\_\_\_ of God into the human race to bring about its deliverance from sin.
  - Christmas is just the beginning of the story of how God came to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**#2-Jesus' family history is unpredictable & messy (2-16)**

- The genealogy of Jesus contains the unpredictable
  - \_\_\_\_\_ outsiders
  - \_\_\_\_\_ outsiders
  - \_\_\_\_\_ outsiders
- The genealogy of Jesus includes the messy (39 men, 5 women)
  - Abraham - Genesis 16-17
  - Judah & Tamar - Genesis 38
  - Rehab – Joshua 2-6, Hebrews 11:31
  - Ruth – The book of Ruth
  - David – 2 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 51
  - Uriah's wife – 2 Samuel 11-12
  - Manasseh - 2 Kings 21:1–18, 2 Chronicles 32:33–33:20

**#3-Truths to Live By: Lessons from Jesus' genealogy**

- Our sin reveals our spiritual brokenness that has led to our own family dysfunction. Failure to be honest about ourselves will cause us to struggle with Jesus' genealogy. **Are you being honest about your own sin?**
- Jesus is troubling to people who do not worship him, but His genealogy richly displays God's mercy and grace for all. **Respond to this mercy by seeking forgiveness and live in His grace.**
- Jesus' genealogy is meant to steer us to focus on Jesus' redemption not our family mess. **Make much of Jesus this Christmas. He alone made a way for your salvation from the MESS.**

**Connect Card:**

- **Which of the stories in the family tree of Jesus surprised you most and why?**
- **How can we pray for you?**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

### **Table Talk**

**(A guide to be used to grow as a disciple of Jesus by yourself, as a family or small group)**

**WARM UP:** Think of or share a fun family Christmas story.

1. Which of the stories in the family tree of Jesus surprised you most and why?

- Abraham
- Judah
- Tamar
- Rahab
- Ruth
- David
- Uriah's wife
- Manasseh

2. Think about your family tree. Do you have someone famous, infamous or interesting in your lineage? Do you think this has affected how your family functions in any way?

3. Which of three Truth into Actions speaks the most to your story? Explain why.

4. What is one thing you will do differently this Christmas because of this message?

**PRAYER:** Thank God for including Matthew's account of Jesus' genealogy with all of its mess. Acknowledge that God is sovereign and not ashamed of our mess. Thank him for coming into our world and our mess to make a way for our redemption through his blood. Invite him to help you live treasuring Jesus this week, despite the mess of family.

Resources:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/400-years-of-silence.html>