

October 22, 2023

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## **The Story Within**

### **Matthew 1:1-17**

Our latest teaching invites you on a journey through the ancestral lines in Matthew's Gospel, uncovering the historical and cultural significance that bridges the Old and New Testaments. From kings to adulteresses, the diverse backgrounds of those in Jesus' lineage reflect God's embrace of all people and underscore the transformative truth of the Gospel. Discover the deep-seated yearnings of a people in search of liberation, and how this longing is met in the person of Jesus Christ.

The genealogy of Jesus is more than just a list of names—it's a rich testament to the fulfillment of God's promises. In this conversation, we dissect the intentional structure of Matthew's genealogy, emphasizing its significance in establishing Jesus' qualifications as the Messiah. We confront the reality of our own faith journeys, inspired to pursue holiness and reflect on our personal decision regarding Jesus Christ.

We explore the transformative power of choosing a life aligned with Jesus, which promises eternal life despite the world's challenges. We highlight the urgency of this decision, as tomorrow is not promised, and encourage you to consider the offer of new life through Christ—an offer that brings redemption and fulfillment. Join us for this thoughtful exploration, steeped in the assurance of God's sovereignty and the legacy of faith that beckons us towards a life complete in Him.

## **5-Day Devotion**

### **Day 1: The Ancestral Call**

*Bible Reading: Matthew 1:1-6*

Devotion: As we embark on this journey, let us consider the significance of Jesus' lineage. From Abraham, the father of nations, to David, the man after God's own heart, each name tells a story of faith and God's faithfulness. Reflect on how God's promises to Abraham and David find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Consider your own spiritual heritage and the legacy you are building through faith.

Further Question(s) and Reflection: How does the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and David in the lineage of Jesus encourage you in your own walk of faith?

### **Day 2: The Tapestry of Redemption**

*Bible Reading: Matthew 1:7-11*

Devotion: As we delve further into the genealogy, we encounter a tapestry of individuals, each with their own stories of grace and redemption. From King Solomon to the Babylonian exile, see how God's sovereign plan weaves together a lineage that includes both the noble and the notorious. Let their stories remind you of God's inclusive grace and His transformative power in your life. Look up some of their stories and reflect on God's grace in their lives.

Further Question(s) and Reflection: What comfort and hope do you find in knowing that God's plan of redemption includes people from all walks of life?

### **Day 3: From Exile to Messiah**

*Bible Reading: Matthew 1:12-17*

Devotion: Today's reading reminds us that periods of waiting and apparent silence are not void of God's presence. The transition from exile to the arrival of the Messiah speaks of hope and restoration. Spend time today reflecting on the hope that Jesus brings into your life and the world, and how His coming changes everything.

Further Question(s) and Reflection: How does the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, offer hope in your current circumstances or in the midst of spiritual 'exile'?

### **Day 4: The Choice Before Us**

*Bible Reading: Matthew 7:13-14*

Devotion: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents us with a choice: the narrow gate leading to life or the broad road leading to destruction. This powerful metaphor challenges us to consider our path and the eternal implications of our decisions. Ponder the choice you've made to follow Christ and the daily decisions that align with this commitment.

Further Question(s) and Reflection: How does your understanding of Jesus' genealogy influence your decision to walk the narrow path with Him?

### **Day 5: Living in Light of the Legacy**

*Bible Reading: Romans 8:31*

Devotion: As we conclude our study of Jesus' lineage, we turn to the assurance found in Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Reflect on the legacy of faith passed down through the generations and how it empowers us to live confidently in God's sovereignty. Consider how the lineage of Christ encourages you to live a life complete in Him, knowing that you are part of a greater story.

Further Question(s) and Reflection:

1. How does the legacy of Jesus' lineage inspire you to live out your faith with confidence and purpose?
2. What changes are you inspired to make in your own life to more align with the life of Jesus in you?

## **For Further Reflection:**

### **Questions for Consideration and Prayer**

1. Reflect on Matthew's intentional structuring of Jesus' genealogy into three sets of 14 generations. What does this specific arrangement reveal about God's plan and Jesus' qualifications as the Messiah? (Matthew 1:17)
2. Considering the diversity in Jesus' lineage, how does the inclusion of individuals from varied moral and social backgrounds demonstrate the inclusive nature of the Gospel? (Matthew 1:1-16)
3. Discuss how the cultural expectations of the Jews for a Messiah to deliver them from Roman oppression may have influenced their reception of Jesus. How does this compare to the spiritual salvation Jesus came to offer? (Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 2:25-32)
4. Explore the themes of life and death presented in the Sermon. How do the choices we make reflect our understanding and acceptance of Jesus' offer of new life? (Matthew 7:13-14, John 10:10)
5. Reflect on the importance of studying genealogies in Scripture. How can delving into the ancestral stories enrich our faith and understanding of God's character? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
6. The teaching touches on the transformation that occurs when we choose to align our lives with Jesus. How does this personal decision impact our journey towards holiness and our relationship with God? (1 Peter 1:15-16)

### **Quotes:**

"Jesus' genealogy is more than just a list of names—it's a rich testament to the fulfillment of God's promises."

"From royal figures to individuals of questionable repute, Jesus' lineage illustrates the transformative truth of the Gospel."

"We confront the reality of our own faith journeys, inspired to pursue holiness and reflect on our personal decision regarding Jesus Christ."

"The choice between life and death—a decision of profound consequence, inviting us to choose a life aligned with Jesus."

"Every name in Jesus' genealogy carries a story that challenges us to make a personal decision about faith in Christ."

"The diversity in Jesus' genealogy reflects the inclusivity and overarching plan of God for all mankind."

"The sovereignty of Jesus is the loudest theme that shouts from the pages of Matthew."

**Keywords:** Faith, Sovereignty, Hope, Restoration, God's Promises