

BEGINNINGS

"BEGINNINGS" WEEK 1 NOTES NOVEMBER 27

KEY THOUGHTS

- Beginnings are everything. How a story starts says everything.
All 4 gospels begin differently – very differently.
God went to great lengths to "be with us."
 - The genealogy of Matthew (1:1-17) is very different from the genealogy of Luke (3:23-38). For a deeper explanation of why, check out this video at www.cccsumter.com/geneology
- Here's what the genealogy of Jesus reveals to us:
 1. Jesus was put strategically in a specific place, at a specific time, to specific parents, in a specific way. (Mt. 1:22 – Now all this place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled...
 2. Jesus came from a scandalous background. The scandals that come from so many of Jesus lineage: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, David, Bathsheba, Solomon, Rehoboam, then 12 of the 20 kings.
 - Who would pick this kind of a beginning.
 3. Jesus is "of every man." The names after the kings are unknowns. We know NOTHING about them!
 - Jesus came from the dirt just like us. Though He is divine and His Father is eternal, He knows of our struggles.
 - Hebrews 4:15 – He understands our struggles.
- God, in the birth of Jesus, God orchestrated all these details to fit His specific plan. And His plan is for all of us.

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 1:1-17
- Hebrews 4:15

PRACTICAL & REFLECTION

- What do it do to your thoughts of Jesus to know that He came from a scandalous background?
- As God's plan is for everyone, how does His plan interact in your life? What is the beginning of His story in you? How is that story playing out right now?