



Main Passage: Matthew 1

Theological Theme

The genealogy of Jesus is an important bridge from the Old Testament to the New Testament and the fulfillment of messianic prophecy.

Introduction

- When has looking at something from a different perspective helped you see or experience it in a new way?
- Why do you think the idea, “familiarity breeds contempt,” is often true?

1. The Genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17)

The New Testament opens with the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1. Matthew was written by the disciple of Jesus, named Matthew, who was a tax collector before he was called to follow Christ. The fact that Jesus chose someone like Matthew to be one of His closest friends and disciples is a reminder that Jesus did not just come for the most popular or beloved people who have it all together. Tax collectors were hated and not esteemed by the Jewish people. They were often looked at as traitors because they carried out the orders of Rome and often took advantage of their position to line their own pockets.

- What is your typical response when you come up a list of names in Scripture like this one? Why?
- What does the varied backgrounds and stories of those included in this genealogy teach you about God’s heart?
- Application: Which name in this list stands out to you most and why?

2. The Nativity (Matthew 1:18-21)

The details about the Jesus’s earthly parents are also important to understand. While the nativity story in Luke 2 gives more specifics of the birth of Christ, Matthew focused on where Jesus came from and how these events happened from the perspective of Joseph. Much can be learned by approaching these events from the viewpoint of Joseph.

- ❓ What do these verses show you about Joseph and his character, even before he knew everything that was taking place? What can we take away from this?
- ❓ When was a time you thought you had a good plan but realized God had a better plan for you?
- ❓ Application: Where are you currently seeking God in a confusing situation? How can you trust Him, even if you can't see what He's doing clearly?

3. The Prophecy (Matthew 1:22-25)

Matthew declared all this had come to pass so that Scripture and prophecy could be fulfilled just as the Lord promised. This reinforces that a divine plan was unfolding, and Joseph had been chosen to play a role in these events that would change the world forever.

- ❓ How can you relate to feeling insecure and unqualified to be used by God for His plans? Where are we putting our confidence when we do this?
- ❓ Where is God inviting you to join His plans today?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to step out in faith, displaying trust in Jesus and not yourself or your own plans?

Conclusion

- ❓ What new perspective have you gained by revisiting Matthew 1 today?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage one another to trust God over our own thoughts and plans?
- ❓ How can you seek a gospel conversation with another person by sharing the events surrounding Jesus's birth?