

Christmas



the part we ignore...

I. Introduction – Matthew 1:1-17

II. Why is the genealogy **IMPORTANT**?

1. The **HEREDITY** of the King. Matthew 1:1-25

A) God gave to Abraham and his seed (the Messiah) *the promise of blessings* for the whole world

B) God gave to David and his seed (the Messiah) *the promise of eternal government*

2. Jesus' **HUMAN** Heredity. Matthew 1:1-17

3. Jesus' **DIVINE** Heredity. Matthew 1:18-25

This genealogy also holds great significance to you as an individual this morning.

III. The genealogy is important **TO YOU**.

1. Meaningful to me when I am **SEPARATED AND ISOLATED**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Matthew 1:2 (NIV)

Why then are his eleven brothers, all the sons of Jacob, listed in the genealogy? Sometimes Christians feel scattered abroad: all alone, lonely, frustrated, depressed, without purpose, meaning, or significance in life.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:16-17 (NIV)

so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7 (NIV)

2. The lineage reminds me of **GOD'S MERCY**.

It is unusual to find the names of **WOMEN** in genealogies. They are listed in Jesus' lineage as a sign of **GOD'S MERCY**.

A. Tamar was a **SEDUCER AND ADULTRESS** whom God reached (Gen.38:24).

B. Rahab was a **GENTILE REJECTED** by the Jews. She was a prostitute who was saved from judgment because she exercised faith in God. (Josh. 2:11).

C. Ruth was a citizen of a nation **HATED BY THE JEWS**, but she was a woman who chose to become associated with God and His people (Ruth 1).

- D. Bathsheba **DELIBERATELY SINNED** with David, but she sought God's forgiveness along with David (2 Sam. 11-12).

There are **NO BARRIERS** to God's mercy.

The four women listed in Jesus' roots is a beautiful picture of the gospel of Christ: their sins are **FORGIVEN** and they are **ACCEPTED** by God as His own.

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Eph 2:3-5 (NIV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

3. The genealogy reminds me that God's love is not inherited – it is given.

Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Matthew 1:7-8 (NIV)

- A. The **GOOD** kings given in vs. 7-8 are:

Solomon (2 Kings 1:1, 1 Kings 11:43)

Asa (1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chron. Chapters 14-16)

Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. Chapters 17-20)

- B. The **WICKED** kings are:

Rehoboam, Verse 7 - (1 Kings 11:43)

Abijah, Verse 7 - (2 Chron. 12:16)

Jehoram, Verse 8 - (2 Kings 8:21-24; 1 Chron.3:11)

Godliness and righteousness are not **INHERITED**.

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. Matthew 3:8-9 (NIV)

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13 (NIV)

4. The genealogy of Jesus Christ emphasizes the power of God to **KEEP HIS PROMISES**.

- A. God's power is seen in delivering His people through terrible times

God fulfilled His promise to send a **SAVIOR** to the world.

Many had **DESPAISED**; others had **FORSAKEN** the belief.

There were some who went so far as to **MOCK** and **PERSECUTE** those who still **BELIEVED**.

- B. God's power is seen in **SENDING JESUS**

- C. God's Power will be seen again when **JESUS RETURNS** - 2 Peter 3:3-14 (NIV)