

Matthew 1:1-16

Christmas is a Celebration of Missions

Introduction:

Stories: Previously on ... LOST

1. **We celebrate Christmas because of Christ's Lineage**. His lineage impacts his place in history because it arouses incredible expectations.

a. Names, significance of names, ILLUS: my kids, etc.

i. Jesus: Yahweh saves

ii. Christ: messiah, anointed one — the promise of an anointed one who would righteously rule God's people

iii. Son of David: 2 Sam 7:7-16, a royal lineage; Psalm 89:3-4

iv. Son of Abraham: gen 12:1-3; 22:18, a chosen people, a chosen man

v. Messiah, anointed one: Matthew wants to prove that this is who Jesus is

b. The expected one to come and fulfill all of God's promises to his people would be ROYAL, ETERNAL, and GLOBAL

- i. This is the GOSPEL, good news, euangellion
- ii. Explain the genealogy: similar to Luke, but Matthew emphasizes the royal lineage, while Luke emphasizes the human lineage all the way back to Adam

2. We celebrate Christmas because Christ's coming proves God's gracious loving-kindness and his faithfulness to his promises.

a. The genealogy tells a story.

- i. Father does not mean father, it means ancestor: sometimes there is a parental link, but the emphasis is on the seed.
- ii. The genealogy is not a chronology, it traces the descendants, but it is historical. It really happened, these are really people
- iii. The names listed in the genealogy are to provoke images and reminders of stories of the OT. How we got from Abraham to Jesus.

b. Royal and wretched in the lineage of Jesus

- i. The significance of the son of David.
- ii. Even the most recognizable names evoke stories of great faith and even greater failures.

c. Men and women in the lineage of Jesus

- i. Recognizing women is significant
- ii. Descent is usually traced through men
- iii. Who are these people?
 1. Tamar — questionable character (Gen 38)
 2. Rahab — gentile, questionable character (Joshua 2)
 3. Ruth — gentile (Ruth)
 4. Bathsheba (The wife of Uriah) — questionable character
 5. Mary —

d. Jew and gentile in the lineage of Jesus

- i. If Jesus is the Messiah/Christ (the expected King of the Jews) why include non-Jews in the lineage? Wouldn't you want to hide it?
- ii. Jesus does fulfill prophecy

3. We celebrate Christmas because Jesus is at the climax of redemptive missional history.

- a. Jesus is the expected one.
- b. He is the climax and focal point because only he can save. He is sinless. This gospel that Matthew communicates is not about what you must do to enter the Kingdom it is about Jesus doing everything for you because only he is worthy.
- c. Whom did Jesus father?
 - i. Spiritual birth
 - ii. Father of righteousness
- d. Where do you fit in?
 - i. Each one of the people in the list pointed to Jesus.
 - ii. For 175 years Southern Baptists have been sending missionaries to share the hope we have in Christ.
 1. You wouldn't know many of the names, but each name has a story.
 2. One name you should know is Lottie Moon.
 - iii. Who begat you spiritually?
 - iv. Whom will you father spiritually?
 - v. PRAY, GIVE, GO, SEND

Illustration suggestions:

- Genealogies: some ancestors bring pride others shame
- Meanings of names
- Tracing your spiritual heritage
- God has no grandchildren