

## This Is the Christ!

☆ **Son of David...Son of Abraham (vv.1-17)**

☆ **Son of Mary...Son of God (vv.18-25)**

In the Name of Jesus, the Christ of God, dear children of the heavenly Father:

We don't always understand what the Holy Spirit is doing. We'll see that with Joseph and Mary at the end of this sermon. But we'll also see it in ourselves if we look at the list of forty-two names in Matthew 1. Early in my ministry some Christians complained about "all the begats" as the KJV translates. Yet the Holy Spirit tells us, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful....*" (2 Timothy 3:16f)

Sadly the Holy Spirit has to work awfully hard to get us to listen. Reminds me of a rainy night riding in our VW bus when my older brother quietly put me in a headlock. If Dad heard us, he might stop the bus. Roc whispered in my ear: "If you'd shut-up and listen, you might learn something."

We're all spiritually drowning and only the Holy Spirit can rescue our bodies and souls. Like a Coast Guard rescue swimmer He has to get around behind us and lock an arm across our chest and neck. "Look!" He shouts. "The rescue basket of is coming. Climb into my Word!" Through Matthew today the Holy Spirit is shouting, "Look! **This Is the Christ!**" Climb in. Our life depends on seeing the...

☆ **Son of David...Son of Abraham (vv.1-17)**

The fact that the Holy Spirit inspired Matthew to write mostly for God's chosen people of Israel is evident from this genealogy. It starts with Abraham, the father of the Hebrews, and includes David, their greatest king. One very useful fact about the Holy Spirit's book of books pops up in the first verse: "*A record (Βίβλος) of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*"<sup>1</sup> The ancient Hebrews kept better written records than other peoples. Next week we'll see how Daniel's influence on Babylon and Persia helped the Wise Men find their way to Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. But don't miss how awesome this really is. Here are real people in real time. The Bible is not a book of myth and legend.

Our culture is messing up the family so bad that we are losing the wonder of genealogy. Meanwhile, folks are getting more curious about their roots. Someone wrote, "My family tree has many branches and quite a few crooked roots." Where you're from is far more important to the Africans.

Morgan Jackson, International Director for Faith Comes by Hearing reports: "When people hear God's word in their heart language, the results are amazing.....When I went to [African] villages, I never understood the power of the genealogy until sometimes my translator would spend five to ten minutes talking before he would start translating. And I asked, 'What is he doing? They said, 'Oh, well, he's giving his genealogy. And if his genealogy is wrong, we'll have to leave the village.' Africans have said that 'if the missionaries would have told us the genealogy of Jesus, we would have believed in Him, but we didn't know He was a real person.'"<sup>2</sup> "*All Scripture is...useful....*"

Just listen. Recognize any of these names? (vv.2-6) Most genealogies try to cover up bad characters and foreign connections. The Holy Spirit emphasizes these in Jesus' family tree. Talk about "crooked roots"! Abraham tried to solve his own problem of a son which still yields bad fruit between Jews and Muslims to this day. He needed to wait for God's time. Tamar tried to wait, but then posed as a

<sup>1</sup> W.P. ~ Wartburg Project – Luke popular review (w/o footnotes) – unless otherwise stated the Bible text. [M.C. 1/04/2015]

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myspace.com/auidobible> . Morgan Jackson, May, 2008 – <http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/> .

prostitute to get pregnant by her father-in-law Judah. Perez was their son in Jesus' family tree. Rahab was the harlot in Jericho who hid the spies, married Salmon and became the mother of Boaz and mother-in-law of Ruth. She was another foreigner, from Moab, one of the forbidden nations. All sinners.

It gets worse in Matthew's second list of fourteen. (vv.6-11) King David had a son, Solomon, whose mother isn't even named here. She "***had been the wife of Uriah,***" whom David murdered trying to cover up the fact that he got Uriah's wife pregnant. God disciplined David to repentance through the death of their first son and prophet Nathan's rebuke. But the Lord loved their second son Solomon who became the richest, wisest king of Israel. David and Bathsheba's third son was Nathan, through whom Luke traces Jesus' bloodline. Matthew traces Jesus' legal line through Solomon and the Davidic dynasty all the way down to "***Joseph, the husband of Mary, from whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.***"

If you can't see yourself in this list, read your Bible and pay closer attention. The Holy Spirit keeps pointing to real sinners in need of a real Savior. Kings grew old and floundered in their pride. Be humble in your old age. Mothers are often mentioned; their instruction set the course for the kings. Don't ever underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit on the lips and in the life of faithful mothers. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba join in praising the **Son of David...Son of Abraham** with room for sinners.

### ☆ **Son of Mary...Son of God** (vv.18-25)

Three things we want to learn from Jesus' stepfather Joseph. The Holy Spirit calls Joseph "***a righteous man.***" In the rest of Bible the Holy Spirit shouts through the prophets that the only ***righteousness*** that counts in heaven is what comes from God and is received by faith. "***The righteous will live by faith.***" (Romans 1:17; Habakkuk 2:4)

So what do you do when you're so stirred up inside that you can barely think? We need a better translation for Joseph here. He found out his fiancée Mary was pregnant. He knew the baby was not his. He could have hauled her into court for capital punishment under God's Law through Moses. But since "***he was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her...he decided to divorce her privately.***" Joseph was not just "***thinking about***" this. The Holy Spirit inspired Matthew to use a word (ἐνθυμηθέντος) meaning *heat inside*. We would say, "He was bottled up inside." "***While he was stirred up... / ...as he was stressing out about these things....***" What do you do? Go to God in prayer.

This was so important for Joseph to find out what the Holy Spirit was doing that ***an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."***

I love how the Holy Spirit comes at just the right time with the right sermon or a Christian friend's good counsel or a headlock from a brother. With David, we can all say, "***Praise be to the Lord our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.***" (Psalm 68:19) That's Good News Gospel to calm our fears too.

See this was "***the Virgin,***" first promised in the beginning when Adam and Eve rebelled. It would take "***the Virgin***" to receive from God the Seed who would crush the serpent's head as Christ did when He died and rose again. Your sin, death and hell are beaten by the **Son of Mary...Son of God**.

Second fruit of the Gospel: Joseph "***did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife.***" Even though this meant shame for the family name with a Child out of wedlock, Joseph believed in Jesus as his Savior. So he did one more thing that was not commanded. He chose to temporarily give up his rights as a husband. In an act of faith Joseph "***was not intimate with [Mary] until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.***" **This Is the Christ!** Amen.