

The Gospel of Matthew

“The Genealogy of Jesus Christ” – Matthew 1:1-17

December 6, 2009

Sermon Series We Will Explore Within Our Study of Matthew

- “Christmas According to Matthew” (3 Sundays in December)
- “What Jesus Has to Say About....” (New Year’s Series on the Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5-7] starting January 10, 2010)
- “End Times” (Spring Sermon Series on Matthew 24-25 starting on Easter)
- “Stories That Make a Difference” (Late Summer Series on the Parables of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew)

Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

- Matthew = the Genesis of the New Testament; this Gospel was the most widely read and frequently used Gospel in the early church; it is the bridge between the Old and New Testaments.
- Human author = Matthew (Levi) who was a Jew and a tax collector (9:9). Jewish tax collectors were a hated class because they were Roman employees. Only the most unscrupulous among the Jews would hire themselves out for the sake of gain to themselves and the enemy of Jerusalem (the Romans). As a tax collector, Matthew’s status in Jewish society was even lower than that of a Gentile, for he robbed and betrayed his own people. No one could have guessed that the Father was carefully preparing a writer of the holy Scriptures!
- Matthew’s name means “gift of the Lord.”
- Matthew is known as “The Jewish Gospel” – it is the Gospel written by a Jew to Jews about a Jew.
- Matthew’s design is to present Jesus as the King of the Jews – the long awaited Messiah.
- There is a strong emphasis in this Gospel of Jesus as “Son of David” (1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:41-45).
- Distinctions between the four Gospels

Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Audience	Jewish	Roman	Greek	Everyone
Jesus as...	King	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God

- The term “kingdom of heaven” is used 32 times (only in Matthew).
- The major theme of the Gospel of Matthew: Jesus is _____
- Matthew’s main purpose is to prove to his Jewish readers that Jesus is their Messiah, and he does this primarily by showing how Jesus (in His life and ministry) fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures.
- There are 130 Old Testament quotations and allusions
- “that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled” (9 times)
- Matthew is the only Gospel to mention the “church” (16:18)

Outline of the Gospel of Matthew

2 Major Divisions	3 Major Sections	5 Major Speeches
Presentation of the King and Kingdom to Israel (1:1-11:30)	Preparation of the King (1:1-4:16)	Speech #1: The Sermon on the Mount (Chap 5-7)
	Proclamation by the King (4:17-16:20)	Speech #2: Ministry Instructions (Chap 10) Speech #3: Parables of the Kingdom (Chap 13)
Rejection of the King and Kingdom by Israel (12:1-28:20)	Passion of the King (16:21-28:20)	Speech #4: Relationships in the Kingdom (Chap 18)
		Speech #5: The Olivet Discourse on End Times (Chap 24-25)

Life-Changing Insights from the Family Tree of Jesus (1:1-17)

1. Jesus is the King promised in the Old Testament (1:1,17)
 - The major theme of the whole Old Testament is to point toward a future Jewish King who will...
 - Be a descendent of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - Be a descendent of David (2 Samuel 7:16)
 - Be born of a virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14)
 - Be a Son of Man (Daniel 7:13)
 - Be called Immanuel “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14)
 - Be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, and will reign in perfect government (Isaiah 9:6-7)
 - Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - Be the King of Israel (Zephaniah 3:15) – thus, will be Jewish
 - Be just and endowed with salvation (Zechariah 9:9)
 - Reign in Jerusalem where every family on earth will go to worship Him (Zechariah 14:17).
 - The purpose of beginning the Gospel of Matthew with this genealogy is to begin to show that Jesus is this Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek) by proving that He is a descendent of Abraham, Judah, and David (1:1,2,17).
 - John MacArthur: “It is both interesting and significant that since the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 no genealogies exist that can trace the ancestry of any Jew now living. The primary significance of that fact is that, for those Jews who still look for the Messiah, his lineage to David could never be established. Jesus Christ is the last verifiable claimant to the throne of David, and therefore to the messianic line.
 - Jesus is the Messiah, and all of the Old Testament promises are true in Him!!!
 - Application #1 – Today, I choose to embrace Jesus as the Messiah, and I ask Him to be King of my life, King of my singleness, King of my marriage, King of my family, King of my work, King of my sexuality, King of my

finances, King of my body, King of my mind, King of my habits, King of my leisure, King of my decisions, and King of my future.

2. Jesus came for women – not just for men (1:3-6,16)

- There are 5 women listed in Jesus’ genealogy: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. This is highly uncommon for a genealogy like this. God is trying to make a point: Jesus came for women – not just for men. God deeply loves women!
- The story of Ruth (Ruth 1-4)
- Application #2 – If you have ever felt abandoned, overlooked, and hopeless, take heart – God has plans for your life. Pray: Lord, I trust You to make something beautiful out of my hopeless situation... just like You did with Ruth. I invite You to use me in your master plan... just like You did with Ruth. Have Your way in my life... just like You did with Ruth.

3. Jesus came for the sexually immoral (1:3-6)

- The stories of Tamar (Genesis 38), Rahab (Joshua 2; 6:22-25; Hebrews 11:31), and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12)
- Wow! If God can use these people, then He can use me, too!
- Application #3 – There is no sin that you have committed that is so bad that God cannot or will not forgive you (1 Timothy 1:15-16). Pray: Lord, I ask for Your forgiveness through Jesus Christ for my sins. Moreover, I ask that You would redeem my mistakes and use me somehow for Your glory... just like You did with Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba. I submit my life to You. Use me however You desire.

4. Jesus came for Gentiles – not just for Jews (1:3-6)

- Tamar was a Canaanite. Rahab was a Gentile from Jericho. Ruth was a Moabite. God included Gentiles in the genealogy of His Son Jesus Christ!
- The message of the Bible is clear: God started a relationship with the Jewish people first and chose them as His people, but He did so for the larger purpose of reaching out to the whole world to have a relationship with Him (Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6; Acts 1:8).
- The Gospel of Matthew ends with: “Go make disciples of all nations (all Gentiles; all people groups)” (28:19).
- God wants a relationship with every single person on planet Earth (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4; John 3:16).
- Application #4 – Lord, I pray for the following people who do not know You yet. Please save them and use me to reach out to them with actions and words: _____

5. Jesus overcomes curses (1:11-12)

- Jeconiah = Jehoiachin was the king of Judah when Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) conquered Jerusalem and carried the people of Jerusalem away into exile (2 Kings 24).
- Jehoiachin was so wicked that Jeremiah prophesied that the exile would happen while he was king (Jeremiah 22:24-28), and Jeremiah prophesied a curse that Jehoiachin would never have an offspring who sits on the throne of David (Jeremiah 22:30).
- This prophecy came true: None of Jehoiachin’s descendents have ever served as a king in Judah/Israel.
- But what about Jesus? According to Matthew, Jesus is a descendent of David through Jehoiachin, and yet we are claiming that Jesus will sit on the throne of David and rule forever. Doesn’t this contradict Jeremiah’s prophecy/curse?
- The answer: Jesus is legally a descendent of David through Jehoiachin’s line through his legal (foster) father Joseph... but Joseph did not contribute to Jesus’ biological blood birth – Mary did. That’s why the Bible has two genealogies for Jesus:

<i>Matthew’s Genealogy</i>	<i>Luke’s Genealogy</i>
Traces Jesus’ genealogy through His step-father Joseph	Trace’s Jesus’ genealogy through His biological mother Mary
Jesus is connected to David through Solomon’s line through Joseph	Jesus is connected to David through Nathan’s line through Mary
Includes Jehoiachin	Does not include Jehoiachin
Shows the royal king lineage through legal relationship with Joseph	Shows racial lineage to David through blood relationship with Mary
Traces Jesus’ lineage back to Abraham (father of the Jews) showing Jesus as a Jew (King of the Jews)	Traces Jesus’ lineage back to Adam (father of mankind) showing Jesus as a human (Son of Man)
Includes Jehoiachin	Does not include Jehoiachin

- Jesus overcame the curse of Jehoiachin!!!! The curse on Jehoiachin’s offspring was circumvented, while still maintaining the royal privilege!
- Application #5 – Jesus, I ask You to overcome the curses in my life. Thank You for not only taking my sins upon Yourself on the cross, but for also taking my curses upon Yourself on the cross (Galatians 3:13). I claim the blood of Jesus Christ over my life for the canceling of all curses ever invited or placed upon me... in Jesus name.

Questions to Discuss with Your Family, Friends, and Small Group

- What do you know about your family tree? Any famous people in your genealogy?
- Read Matthew 1:1-17 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with each other and pray for each other.