

Title: Jesus' Family

Biblical Text: Matthew 1:1-17

Teaching Series: God is with Us

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Mathew 1:1-17 ... The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,^[a] ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,^[b] ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,^[c] and Amos the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,^[d] and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called

Christ.¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Hello, CITS. My name is Derec and I serve as an Edler here. Today we begin our Advent series. God with us. Advent, which means arrival, is a time of year that we as a church and world of Christians wait on the arrival of Jesus Christ. The savior of the world to be born. For some this is a typical December Sunday where we hear familiar bible verses that may feel like the same thing each year, wait, wait for Jesus to be born, throw some real time context, some local flare or some random elder preacher experiences on it and you get another Advent sermon series. But this year is whole year past last year. Don't let season and tradition steal the opportunity to refine your spirit this Advent.

For some we aren't quite sure about Advent, aren't quite sure how to navigate or time and energy, maybe we haven't used this time in the past or ever been presented with using this time to reflect upon when Jesus was born into the world and so, we fill the days, hours and minutes with yule logs, weird calendars, winter flavored mochas, Mariah Carey, tree decorating, and endless parties where you get to wear that one piece of green velvet you own. But this year, take time to reflect on what the the coming of your savior means. Dig into the study guide and frame this season around a savior.

See Advent is really the one time of year where the Christian world and the secular world collide. We all know this collision happens right after Thanksgiving, because that's when you're allowed to put up a Douglas Fir, listen to a Legendary Christmas, sip some egg nogg, Starbucks changes their cups and every mass email

you have ever unsubscribed from is somehow now in your inbox, telling you to buy something you don't need or give your money away to some organization you don't know anyone in. This collision is quick and happens as naturally as the first post thanksgiving Chicago freeze. Maybe this collision brings you joy. Maybe it makes you angry. Maybe its both it just depends what's in the egg nogg.

All jokes aside today is big day for follows of Jesus. Advent has started. And we get to do something we do so often as followers. Wait. We wait for Him to come. To be born on Christmas. To come again. We prepare our hearts for whom the prophet Isaiah described as the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace". Advent, is the arrival of King Jesus as an infant. See the Christmas collision and the smattering of lights, gifts, and giving were born out of the long waiting and then arrival of a promised messiah. So...

- Hang up your lights to resemble the light of the world that came to save us
- Give a gift in remembrance of the gift of Him that we were given from our father in heaven
- Sing out in worship to the Joy of the world that comes on December 25th
- Offer your material things to those who need juts like our savior who needed while on earth

Do you see. Lights, gift giving, singing, and offering what you have been given aren't the powers of the secular world over shadowing the truth of this season. The collision isn't a bad thing but what's true is only one side has real power. Jesus Christ, Immanual, God with Us, arrives in 22 days, lets take time to seek our hearts about what His arrival to this earth means for our souls this Advent.

Introduction

Ashley, my wife, and I have three littles and have been a part of this body for almost 7 years. I am truly grateful for the ways we as individuals, as a couple, as those seeking parenthood, as now parents, as friends and as members we have been shaped and shepherded here. I find it hard if not impossible to see myself up here today, as a group leader, or in my role at work without this body and church. It becomes difficult to find words to describe how grateful I am. Thank you for showing up, for receiving my family, and for speaking into my life.

Today we are going to talk about family. That's right family. And it only seemed fitting to reflect on my family. My church family. My immediate family. My greater family. My heavenly family. This word family comes with a great deal of baggage for me on one side but a great deal of comfort and wholeness on the other side. It's a word that is used so intimately yet so broadly. Family. Ill say it again. Family. You might have just felt a rush of hotness down your spine because just the word puts you right into the fight. You might have just sat deeper in your chair and your clothing just felt like it gave you a hug because the word delivers comfort and joy. Family. You might use this for those whom you share blood with. You might use this for those whom you don't share blood with but the word exemplifies exactly the role they play in your life. Our families' hold stories. Our families hold weight. Our families hold truths. Yet they don't define us. They don't get the final say. They can't complete us. What Mathew, who was one of the 12 disciples of Jesus who penned one of the four biographies or as they are referred too, gospel accounts, wants to make blatantly clear in the start of His gospel is that your family isn't the whole story. Jesus family wasn't the whole story either. He was. He is. and He is to come. So today, as we enter into the first Sunday of Advent we'll structure our time like this.

- The Truth of Jesus Family

- The Nature of Jesus Family
- The Beauty of Jesus Family

The Truth of Jesus Family

In today's world we have a few ways to be "known" or be read up and down, or be valued, or given legitimacy. A resume is one of those ways. We sit down and think of all we have done in our vocations and make sure it's clear how good we were. We open up a word document on one side of the screen and Google thesaurus on the other side and pick the best words that encapsulate attributes and abilities, so that, some middle manager or algorithm will sort out what is worthy or unworthy of receiving an actual human interaction or interview at the position you applied for. As a middle manager this drives me nuts. Why would a piece of paper that was self-curated and self-created be used as the reason an actual person should or should not get spoken to. Yet it's the way of the world, is it not? This resume says something about you but it barely scratches the surface of whom you actually are. What you offer. Your abilities. Your strengths. Your weaknesses. We actually need to meet, get to know, watch, and be in proximity to any person to actually know who they are. Am I right? A resume is a poor way to make judgement on any of us.

During Ancient times and especially in first 1st century Jewish homes the same thing was true but it wasn't self-curated it was your genealogy or family of origin. The order of your birth and whom you were birthed to. Who was your father or grandfather? The family and family name you were born into defined most of who you were, it offered legitimacy, rights to inheritance, and a person's heritage. You were born into a name and class that defined somewhat of the path forward. This is where monarchies are still found. What societal class systems were built. You're born into the family of, fill in the blank, and this is what their father was, their mother was, their brother or sister was or was not. What's different here is that you

can't use a thesaurus to rewrite the Uncle Bob's of the world or add some extra special Auntie Julies to the family tree. You cant just move away and start over, or take a new job that redefines you, or find a significant other that rewrites your sur names history. Your family of origin holds truths and weights that also make you, you. Like it or not our family of origin runs deep within your personality and being. So when we read the names in Mathew 1, Abraham, Judah, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David, Asaph, Josiah, we should know that this prophetic family tree wasn't by mistake. Jesus was born into some baggage. Jesus act of grace to be born into a messy family models his kingdom and the creation he is bound to save.

From Abraham to David to Mary we should take a moment to dive into the players here. See at first blush it's a prophetic, powerful, and righteousness bunch, the genealogy of Jesus. Abraham, Jacob, David, Soloman, Amos, and Josphe are all included in the first chapter of Mathew. Just flip through the bible a few times, you'll find these names, But each one of these guys have stories and truths that make up whom they are. None of them could save their people, think about that, Abraham didn't save God' People, King David didn't save his people, and neither of them could save themselves. Like you and I and all of God's people salvation must come through a person, Jesus. Lets look even more. Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, Ruth, Mary. Sound just like Jesus relatives, right? These mothers of Jesus have much to tell us of who Jesus is and why he came to this world. Jesus entered the world through this genealogy and each member of this tree points to Himself and no member is God in the flesh. Not Abraham. Not Jacob. Not David.

Jesus arrived in a womb to the virgin Mary. He arrived as we all did into this world. Through a mother's womb. A womb that carried him and birthed him and needed to care for him as infant. The mothers of Jesus have a lot to teach about whom the kingdom of God was coming for. This prophetic genealogy that Mathew

writes does something uncommon in its gospel reporting. He mentioned 5 mothers of Jesus and most definitely not by mistake. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, or as Mathew writes the wife of Uriah, and Mary, Jesus birth mother. The covenants God made with Isael always pointed to a king. A messiah. A savior. The Jewish people assumed this will look a certain way, like the kings and emperors of the time which included power, influence, rule, and reign over Israel and would come with armies and bloodshed but what Mathew wants to make clear from the jump, the first few verse of his Gospel is that the kingdom of God comes for all. It isn't just for the prophets, It isn't just for the appropriate bloodline or place of birth, it isn't for a single race, it isn't for just a single gender. Jesus, the sone of man, arrived for Tamar, Mathew, verse 3, He arrived for Rahab, Matthew verse 5a, He arrived for Ruth, Mathew verse 5b, and for Mary, Mathew, verse 16. See each of these mothers story expands the radically inclusiveness of Jesus Kingdom. Lets look.

- **Tamar** - a gentile, slept with her father in law Judah, and Judah was unjust to her.
- **Rahab** - a gentile, was a prostitute but a faithful servant to a God that culturally wasn't accessible
- **Ruth** - a gentile, leaves her land to follow God and He redeemed her away from all she knew and provided for her in a new land and faith
- **Bathsheba** – Uriah's wife. Whom David slept with after her husband Uriah, protected him when his life was on the line.
- **Mary** – A virgin who was given the messiah to carry but the holy spirit was disbelieved of her conception.

The radical inclusiveness of the kingdom of God is on full display with these women and Jesus entering the story after them captures them in His kingdom. His kingdom that is unlike any kingdom this world knew or expected. In this list you

have gender outsiders, racial outsiders, and moral outsiders. To the Jewish readers who expected a true earthy King, these figures would not have been clean enough to get in. Do you see what Mathew, a Jewish Tax collector, that meticulously wrote this chapter in the bible and genealogy is doing? Mathew makes sure to bring the full stories of Tamar and Judah. Not just Judah's bloodline. In verse 6 Mathew says *"And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,* Mathew makes sure we remember King David's and Uriah's full story by leaving off Bathsheba's name, whom was Uriah's wife, which makes sure to remind us of the betrayal to his friend Uriah, as well as, the adultery with Bathsheba. The Messiah was born into this kind of family. A messy slash churchy slash heroic slash outsider slash insider slash Jewish slash not Jewish. The truth of Jesus family is that salvation is radically available to all that believe. Paul says in the book of Titus chapter 3 verse 4-6 *⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life..* the truth of Jesus family is that no member of the family is left out. Take a minute and look around. We aren't a community that all looks, acts, functions and is the same. We weren't punched from a mold and have fallen into our respective church chairs. We are all god's people. We are included because Jesus arrived and offered us redemption from exclusivity. We weren't pushed into the cold or required to get our DNA checked into order to worship. He welcomed us in our trespasses and sins. In our separation and mess he said come to my family and be healed from the world.

During Advent we wait for the arrival. Do you get it yet? We wait for the kingdom to arrive. This kingdom was born into a messy family, maybe like yours and

definitely like mine but this kingdom doesn't require a fancy resume or clean bloodline. Frankly this kingdom is for the opposite. It's for those who say "I am not King of my life, I am not the king of my family, I cannot save my family". It's for those who have needs and need healing. It's for those who have broken bonds, broken covenants, and broken relationships and confess they cannot fix it themselves. Jesus messy family offers peace and hope during a time of year that can be painful and difficult to navigate with families, familial roles, and relationships. It offers the truth that your family may know today that the good news is about what is done and not what has to be done. Rest in knowing your family on earth is not where your salvation and eternal wholeness will come. The ultimate rest can be found right now during this season, and I implore us all to take time to consider resting in Jesus.

The Nature of Jesus Family - (1 Cor 3:16, Acts 4:12, John 16:33, 1 John 1:7-9)

I didn't grow up in the church or with an understanding of who Jesus was and what His kingdom offered. As I have began to follow Jesus I continue to be confronted with my humanness and the fact I am not God. That may sound hilariously arrogant but there was a time where I believed I was my own God. I mean I truly lived and believed that I could, would, and should be able to do really anything and it all myself and any of the walls in my way were simply the next thing to run through to get what is mine. This line of thinking and character is something I battle daily. But the more Jesus is revealed to me I can see this lie, being your own God, actually delivers less than it ever returns. It returns void as some point because like the kings of the past saving yourself is a futile task to take on. But, "why" I ask myself and shake my head. Because I don't hold any power. My soul as a follower of Christ is longing for something different. Once you become a new creation and lay down your will the soul will battle for souls and in the battle for

souls and his kingdom arriving there just isn't a need for anymore kings because the Mighty God and Prince of Peace rules.

The whisper of Mathews genealogy is in this understating. The foundation Mathew is laying down in his genealogy is that even though this prophetic family tree has all the makings of greatness it fell short, and it needed something more powerful to arrive in order that it may be redeemed and made whole. The foundation of the genealogy was always Jesus Himself.

- He was in the beginning when Jesus was with the word, John 1:1-3 *I In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- Jesus was with Abraham when God promised Sarah would conceive and son and that He would be off Abraham's offspring Gen 17: *¹⁹ God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.^[a] I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.*
- He was with David during his time as Shepherd, as king and as author of 73 Psalms, Psalms *²³ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.^[a]³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness^[b] for his name's sake.⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,^[c] I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely^[d] goodness and mercy^[e] shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell^[f] in the house of the Lord forever.^[g]*

- He was with the Virgin Mary as the spirit conceived a child Luke 1:27-28
And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he(the angel Gabriel) came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Jesus was always with his family. Each family member we learned about needed him. Regardless of where they showed up on the timeline. They needed a savior a promise to be fulfilled. The nature of Jesus family reflects and exposes the truth of a creations inability to save itself. And not just from tough times or difficult relationships but from death. You see the nature of this family isn't just about restoring and making right in this moment. It is about eternity and the ages to come when a new city comes down and dwells on this earth and we have not sickness, or plight, or sin, or shame, but we have complete unity with God himself in a new body made whole.

Being adopted into Jesus family gives you power. Unlike earthly powers that are built around money, fame, fortune, and status. This power is himself in spirit. The holy spirit. The spirit of the living God, the wonderful counselor, dwells in the hearts and mind of its family.

Now if we aren't careful we can arrive at Advent and use this season as the only time His truths and powers shine through. The Advent collision, as Dr. Tim Keller calls it, is happening all around us and everyone accepts a little more religion than normal. We might say here the real reason for the season, so we finally give, we finally talk about our faith to the family member we always kept at 30,000 feet. Or we throw our righteous Christian blazer on and we scoff at the consumerism of it all and speak boldly against how people pile on debt to make Christmas feel special or arrogantly roll our eyes at the homes decked from roof to sidewalk in

lights. Now isn't the time to arrogantly hold onto this power and wield it like little kings.

Like each day as a follower of Christ it's a season to remember why you have the power in the first place. It's a season to humbly lay down the makings of the year and with thanksgiving and supplication reflect on the work Jesus accomplished through you and in you to be here today. Its time to rest in the truth and beauty that you and your family didn't have to be extra good, or super awesome, or uniquely important this year to receive the arrival of Jesus. He will arrive no matter what. It's not on you to make Christ arrive and it's not on you to save. He arrived in to real time so that the world could see God more clearly. So that each tribe, nation, and tongue could experience the fullness of life and wholeness of self that is offered in a heavenly family. The gap in a secular world is trying to close at this time of year because the whispers and power of a true king, coming are real. And the hands and feet are operating in a dark world as lights that resemble who's to come, Jesus Christ.

What we have seen throughout the first 17 verses of Mathew is not just a group of names placed in an order that reveals a familial tree. We can see the inclusive nature of Jesus family. Do you see? The family tree wasn't about glory or best in class. It was about people, human souls, Abraham, Tamar, Soloman, Rahab, David, Bathsheba, Jospheh, and Mary. Let us be a community to live this radically inclusive example. When strangers walk in welcome them as part of the family. When we see sin show up in our brother or sisters life press in and remind them of the truths of Jesus himself. When someone shows up with questions, concerns, or disagreements lets meet them on the road their traveling on before we pass judgment and make sure to point them to kingdom of Jesus. Lets not assume we know. Or have it all figured out. Lets go together to see how Jesus says to live and

act. And lets not be afraid to be wrong. To say the wrong thing. To mess up. Or to fail.

The nature of Jesus family is to reflect and share that as a created being we cannot save ourselves but, someone will arrive that can. And the one who arrives will bring a power to change hearts and minds of all those whom enter his family through believing He is King.

The Beauty of Jesus Family

Mathew, a Jewish man, knew the weight King David held in God's story. He knows the importance of King David's place in the genealogy that he structured it grammatically to expose that the Davidic throne always belonged to Jesus.

Mathew, who collected taxes for the Romans from his Jewish people whom were ruled over by the Romans went deep into the numbers here to direct our attention directly to Jesus, and that who Timothy Keller, in his book *The Hidden Christmas* calls, "The Ultimate Rest" is whom all rest or sabbath is found. Mathew uses a Hebrew grammatic structure called gematria where each letter is given a value. David. Added up in Hebrew equals 14. David is the 14th name in this genealogy.

Matthew 17 *From Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.* Furthermore when Jesus arrived there had been six, 7's of generations making Jesus the beginning of the 7th generation. Track with me here. Jesus is the beginning of the seventh 7th generation. What do we know about the 7th day? In Genesis 1 its says *"And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."* He, God, rested after making the heavens, the earth and everything that dwells in it. The mosaic law tells farmers every 7 years to let the

field and crops go dormant, so they had time to replenish its nutrients and be restored. Leviticus 25: 3-4 - ³ *For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.* Are you tracking with me? Also in Leviticus 25 we are told that the last year of the 7th period of 7 years the 49th year was to be jubilee. This means that debts were forgiven, land was given back, sojourners could stay for free, and all the people were to have rest from the burdens for the world. Mathew desired to write in this format in order to get the attention of his Jewish brothers and sisters who were likely the least likely to believe in a king that would come as a human and not a God. Mathew did his best to through everything he had, gematria, and names, and order to draw his readers in to actually believe Jesus was the God the scriptures have talked about for hundreds of years. That Jesus is the Christ, the son of man, the son of David, the savior of the world.

But the beauty of Jesus family is that they can all be redeemed. Each one of them. Yes, believe it or not each of one of Jesus family members and each one of your family members can be too. As far away as that may seem my guess is they are no farther away than David was. David was king and favored by God. God's anointed one as described in 1 Samuel. But for all David's glory he fell short. David slept with Bathsheba, not his wife, Uriah's wife, (Mathew 1:6) and then David orders Uriah to be killed after he has committed adultery. Though Uriah was one of his Mighty Men which protected him and fought for his throne. They were likely friends. Then Bathsheba gives birth to Soloman. And its through Soloman, son of Bathsheba and David that the Son of David arrives on Christmas. Yea, its complex but can you see the beauty? The beauty of a father who sends his son to not rule and reign with crowns, and parades, and followers, and materials of this world but

to redeem the hearts and minds of all those who fall short. Those who miss the mark. All those with need rest. All those who need healing. All those who are poor. All those who need hope. A King that redeems gives His people everlasting life.

Do you see how God story isn't just about a specific group, or heritage, or people, or color, or ethnicity, or race? Jesus came through this genealogy to give us a truth that His kingdom is wide open for those who call him Lord of their life. No one in this family had the power to reconcile and redeem itself. Don't be fooled here. It's not the arrival of Jesus into the world that took our sins away. After he arrives he still needs to be raised by a family, to learn to walk, talk, and make friends. He still needs to teach, heal, and model how we should live. He still needs to experience the human emotions we all feel day in and day out. Joy, Anger, Frustration, Celebration, Sadness, excitement, anticipation, and 1000 more that we as creation experience. Jesus still needs to go the cross. He still needs to ask for it not to happen. He still needs to be the atonement for all His families Sins, brokenness, faults, and mistakes. And he'll do all this for his family. For you and for me. For your family. For my family. For this family. For this body. And after he goes to the cross and is laid in a tomb. He'll then rise on the 3rd day and ascends to the right hand of the father where rules and reigns today.

So though Advent is time to wait, to anticipate the coming of someone. We live in a day where we have Him. So as we anticipate Him to come take time to sit in your saviors arrival to this world and find rest and healing in Him. He is the ultimate rest. His yoke is easy. His grace is enough. He is the redeemer of all people.

Be so bold this year to share why you follow Christ. Be so bold this year to take a back seat to your savior. Be so bold this year to sit with someone who's trying to save themselves.