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The Gospel in the Genealogy of Jesus; Matt 1:1-17

GPBC

5.6.18

Introduction – There is a connection between our text for today and that today is Grassy Pond’s Memorial Day. We look back today. We remember and honor those who have gone before us. We keep in mind our history, who we are and from where we came. All of our past is what God has used to make us who we are in the present.

In a very similar way, we are doing the same kind of things as we study the genealogy of Jesus. We’re looking back, we’re keeping in mind the history, learning from the past to build our faith in the present.

You know there is a good deal of fascination today with genealogies and ancestries. There’s even a dedicated website to helping you go far back into your lineage by testing your DNA. Ancestry.com says this on their home page – “Discover what makes you uniquely you. Uncover your ethnic mix, distant relatives, and even new ancestors.”

When I read that I thought, “I have enough trouble with the family I’m aware of, I don’t need to know any more!”

The basic gist of ancestry.com is this: the farther you can look back, the more you’ll know about yourself today. Well that’s what we’re going to do today with the genealogy of Jesus. We’re going to look back at his lineage and learn even more about the gospel, and Christ, and even ourselves. I see 5 lessons on the gospel from Jesus’ genealogy.

You may wonder why Matthew would go through the trouble of writing out this genealogy. Why not just jump right into the birth of Jesus and leave out all these names? Remember Matthew’s purpose. He’s writing to a Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the OT. That’s why he only goes back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, and why he makes sure to demonstrate Jesus as a direct descendant of David. This is a gospel proof for Jews, but if we look closely, there’s gospel here for Gentiles as well!

- I. At the Right Time (v17)
 - a. Matthew's genealogy is not a complete listing. You can easily tell that Matthew's objective is to communicate fullness and completeness. 3 sets of 14 generations. Matthew has carefully set forth redemptive history in 4 stages – read v17 and v18 – $3 + 1 = 4$. Matthew has carefully crafted the genealogy of Jesus to demonstrate that the Old Covenant has issued forth into the New Covenant, the Anointed One has arrived. He is setting the stage to announce the good news, but he is also announcing the good news in the setting of the stage.
 - b. Gal 4:4-5 – But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
 - c. At the right time in history, the Son of God came to earth as the man Jesus, who is called the Christ.

- II. A Son of Abraham (The first 14 generations) – the Promised Seed
 - a. The point of showing that Christ is directly descended from Abraham has to do with the God's promise to Abraham.
 - i. Gen 12:1-3 – Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation (people group), and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families (people groups) of the earth shall be blessed."
 - ii. God tells Abram, "I'm going to take you and Sarai, who are not able to have children, and I'm going to make an entirely new people group. You're going to have a multitude of descendants. And from those descendants, there will come one offspring (Gen 12:7), and that one offspring will bless every other people group on the whole earth!"
 - b. This language of all nations of the earth will be blessed first appears in Genesis with Abraham and the promised seed or offspring of blessing.
 - i. Remember last week we looked at Jesus' sermon on the last days in Matt 24:14 – And this gospel of the kingdom will be

proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

1. “nations” – not geo/political nations but rather people groups, a people who share a common language and culture. For example in the one geo/political nation of India, there are 1,700 people groups.
- ii. Matt 28:19 – Go therefore and make disciples of all nations
 1. God promises it in Gen 12, Jesus says it will happen in Matt 24, and then He sends His disciples to fulfill it in Matt 28.
 2. How do we know with absolute certainty that it will in fact happen – that Jesus the son of Abraham will bless every family on the earth? Rev 5!
- iii. Rev 5:9-10 – Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.
- iv. God promises Abraham that one will come from him that will bless every people group on earth. Jesus Christ comes as a son of Abraham and dies for the sin of all who will believe in Him from every people group on earth. His people carry His gospel to every people group so that they can hear and believe. And then He will return to take us to be with Him forever, and in that way Jesus is the promised seed of blessing to every people group on the earth.
- c. Gal 3:16 – Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

- III. A Son of David (the second 14 generations) – the Promised King
 - a. The point of showing that Christ is directly descended from David has to do with God’s promise to David.
 - b. 2 Sam 7:12-13 – When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a

house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

- i. God promises David that one will come from his offspring and he will build a house for the glory of God and his kingdom and his throne will be established forever. His reign will last for eternity. God's kingdom will be realized in one of your sons.
- ii. Matthew is saying, "Jesus is that son of David. He is the King who reigns with an everlasting kingdom."

c. Rev 19:11-16

- IV. In a Time of Captivity (the third 14 generations) – the Promised Savior
- a. The point of showing that Christ came after the deportation has to do with God's promise to send a deliverer, to send a savior.
 - b. Now it is true that Judah made it back to the land after being deported, but they never made out from under another nation's rule.
 - c. Isaiah 61:1 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...
 - d. In Luke 4, Jesus was at the synagogue in Nazareth, his hometown. Someone handed him a scroll of Isaiah, he read from this very passage from Isaiah 61, closed the scroll, and said, "That's me. Isaiah was prophesying about me." And they hated him.
 - e. He didn't come to preach freedom from Rome, but rather freedom from sin. His was a greater liberty, a liberty beyond earthly captivity, a liberty that sets one eternally free.

V. From a Long Line of Sinners

- a. If you read 1, 2 Samuel, 1, 2 Kings, 1, 2 Chronicles and Ruth, you'll read about these very people in the genealogy of Jesus. And what you'll discover is that every single one of them were sinners. You'll find liars, cheaters, deceivers, all forms of sexual immorality, murder, everything from adultery to idolatry, even among the greats like Abraham and David and Uzziah and Hezekiah. They were all horrible, wretched sinners.
- b. But that's exactly why Jesus came, isn't it? From a long line of sinners, for a long line of sinners.

c. Luke 19:10 – For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Conclusion - You may be thinking if Matthew is writing to Jews, then what's here for the Gentiles? If you've been listening, there's as much gospel here for the Gentile as for the Jew. Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham that will bless all people groups. Jesus is the promised son of David who is King of all kings. Jesus comes to deliver those who are enslaved to sin. And if we look really close and carefully in that long list of sinners and their long list of sins, we'll see ourselves and we'll see our sin. And if you can see yourself condemned by your own sin, you're just one step of faith away from seeing Jesus as your Savior!