

Before the Manger

Matthew 1:1-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Every story has a beginning and many times that beginning is written for a purpose. The author is trying to grab the readers' attention so they will listen to the whole story.
- B. Each of the Gospel accounts are a part of the story about the greatest hero the world has ever known.
- C. While the world likes to begin with a beautiful baby being born in a manger, none of the Gospel writers begin with the manger scene. Let's take Matthew's Gospel for example this morning.

MATTHEW BEGINS THE STORY OF JESUS WITH A GENEALOGY.

- A. Matthew begins his story in an odd way. He begins before the manger with a list of Jewish names.
- B. To us the genealogy seems irrelevant but to the Jews it was essential (ex: Gen. 5, 10, I Chron.1-9).
- C. This is not a comprehensive genealogy. Not every descendant in the family tree is included (v. 17).

MATTHEW'S GOSPEL WAS DESIGNED TO CONVINCe JEWS THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH.

- A. Matthew couldn't just proclaim Jesus to be the Messiah; he had to prove it as well. The Jews had to know where Jesus came from if they were going to believe His Messiahship.
- B. Matthew begins the genealogical list with two of the most important men in the Jewish line (v. 1).
- C. By starting with these two, Matthew demonstrated that Jesus was the legal heir to the throne of David.
 - 1. David – The Jews were expecting the Messiah to be from David's lineage (2 Sam. 7:11-16).
 - 2. Abraham – God made a promise to Abraham about his seed (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:4-6; 16; 22:17-18).

LESSONS FROM THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS:

- A. God is faithful and fulfills His promises.
 - 1. God had continually made a promise throughout Israel's history (Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Isa. 11:1-2; 10).
 - 2. God doesn't operate on our time table (Gal. 4:4-5).
- B. God is gracious and invites all people into His family.
 - 1. Matthew mentions 5 women in the genealogy of Jesus. Genealogies were male dominated.
 - 2. God has given all the right to become children of God (John 1:12).
- C. God's family is on level ground.
 - 1. It doesn't matter what our pasts are like. We can be fellow citizens in God's family (Eph. 2:19).
 - 2. Some people listed were important and others were not. In God's family we all are one (Gal. 3:26-29).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Matthew is the author of this Gospel. If anyone would have understood the grace of our Lord, it was Matthew (Matt. 9:9-13). He was a Jewish tax collector and yet the Lord invited him in.
- B. Thanks to Jesus, we all have a place in the family of God.