



We are in week two of a series called “Jesus According to Matthew.” In this series, we are taking a long, slow walk through the book of Matthew. As we unpack what Matthew wrote about the life of Jesus, we will explore what Jesus would say about our world, our culture, and each of our lives. If you weren’t able to hear the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdecatour.org/jesusaccordingtomatthew

WEEK 2: THE AWESOMENESS OF GENEALOGY

This weekend Pastor Brian unpacked the genealogy of Jesus contained in Matthew 1:1-17. For many of us, this is a passage of scripture we tend to gloss over or skip altogether. However, as Pastor Brian said, **every word has a reason**. Every word in the original writing of Scripture is “God Breathed.” In other words, nothing is accidental or benign. If we believe that, we need to take time to understand why Matthew included this list in his Gospel. We need to uncover what this list of names has to do with the “good news” of Jesus and what that means for our lives.



OPENING CONVERSATION

As we begin this week, take a moment to answer these questions:

- ▶ Other than the Bible, what is your favorite story of all time? What story grabs you and transports you to another place? What is it about that story? What do you experience as you read that story?
- ▶ Matthew’s original audience would have had a similar experience as they read this opening chapter of the book of Matthew. What has your experience with Matthew 1 been like? Have you experienced what Matthew’s original audience did? Why or why not?
- ▶ Why do you think Matthew chose to start his biographical account of the life of Jesus this way?



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Read **MATTHEW 1:1-17**

Every word of this passage is full of deep and rich meaning, but that meaning is veiled in a history and culture that we are far removed from. Fortunately, the pages of the Old Testament uncover a great deal about whom these individuals were and how they played into the overall account of God's redemptive story. As we read the Old Testament, we should pay careful attention to names in this passage.

As we strive to understand the meaning of this passage and how it relates to us, it can be discouraging to think about what we don't understand. However, instead of allowing ourselves to be discouraged by what we don't understand, let's focus on what we can learn from what we do understand.

- ▶ As you look at this list of names, how many of the names do you recognize, and what do you know about these individuals?
- ▶ This weekend, Pastor Brian mentioned that this list of names, in Matthew's day, essentially was a resume. In other words, Matthew was presenting Jesus' resume, or his identity. In verse 1, Jesus is presented as "the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham". Why would Matthew start with these three phrases? What was he trying to convey about Jesus' identity?
- ▶ Matthew also included some people in the genealogy who were known for making some serious mistakes, including Rahab, Tamar, and David, who despite being a highly respected king in Israel's history, had made significant mistakes. Why did Matthew include these names? What was he saying about Jesus' purpose?



FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ Throughout this series, we are going to look at how Jesus would relate to our world, our culture, and our individual lives. How does this passage relate to our world and each of us?
- ▶ One of the purposes of this passage is to reveal that it doesn't matter who we are, what we've accomplished, or what mistakes we've made. What matters is that Jesus is the Messiah, and only he can make us right with God. If this is true, why do we dwell in our sin or fight so hard to prove our worth? What are we really trying to accomplish?

- ▶ Pastor Brian talked about this quote from Pastor Timothy Keller:

“The gospel is good news, not good advice. Advice is counsel about what you must do. News is a report about what’s already been done. Advice urges you to make something happen. News urges you to recognize something has already happened, and you must respond to it.

Advice says basically, ‘it’s all up to you.’ News is, ‘This has already been accomplished in history; it’s actually happened.’”

Respond to this quote. What does it mean for you? How does the good news of Jesus apply to your life?



PRAYER

As you close your time, take time to pray.

- ▶ Pray for this series, that the words and life of Jesus would transform us. Pray that God would use this series to make each of us, and our congregation, more like his Son.
- ▶ Take time to thank God for the good news of Jesus.
- ▶ If you are doing this study as a small group, pray for each other to respond to the good news this week as you go throughout the daily aspects of your life.