

“Guest List”
An Unexpected Christmas
November 29th & December 2nd, 2018

Matthew’s account of the life of Jesus is unique because it begins with a **genealogy**

Matthew is writing to a **Jewish** audience and is going to make the case that Jesus is in fact the Son of God, the **Messiah**

The Jews knew the Messiah must be a descendant of **David**

As Matthew writes the genealogy of Jesus, he does something very unusual – He puts in five **women**

In ancient times almost all histories were written by **hired** historians who made the person who hired them look **good**

Matthew goes out of his way to make us **question** some of the people in Jesus’ genealogy

Matthew 6:1-6 (NIV) “This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife.”

Matthew knew the point of the story he was about to tell, and that the issue Jesus came to address was our **sin** problem

Jesus didn’t just come **for** sinners; He also came **from** sinners

Matthew also knew this was **his** story

Matthew 9:1-7 (NIV) “Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to His own town. ² Some men brought to Him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the man, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ ³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, ‘This fellow is blaspheming!’ ⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’ ⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’ So He said to the paralyzed man, ‘Get up, take your mat and go home.’ ⁷ Then the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.”

Matthew 9:9 (NIV) “⁹ As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth...”

Tax collectors were considered the **lowest** of the low

Matthew 11:19 (NIV) “[the religious leaders said of Jesus He is] a friend of tax collectors and ‘sinners.’”

Matthew 9:9 (NIV) “...‘Follow Me,’ He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.”

Matthew 9:10-11 (NIV) “¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’”

Do you know what people who are far from God know? They know they are **far from God**

Matthew 9:13 (NIV) “¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew did follow Jesus and eventually he **believed**

The real shocker for Matthew was that being a sinner did not **disqualify** him from being **included** by Jesus

Matthew understood the story of Christmas is a story about God drawing **near** to those who have drawn **away**

As Matthew followed Jesus, he discovered that Jesus **changed** the rules in terms of what it meant to **approach** God

We think, I approach God based on the platform of what I have **done** or what I have **not** done

Matthew discovered we have the opportunity to approach God, not on the basis of what he had done, but on the basis of what **Jesus had done** for him

Jesus came for those who had done so poorly that they needed a **gift**, the gift of **righteousness**, the gift based on what God through Christ had done on our behalf

The angel announced the birth of Jesus as the Savior of the world – Savior from what? Savior from **sin**

The point of Christmas is God sent a **Savior**; the genealogy of Jesus highlights the **world's** need of a Savior

No matter how good you are, it's not **good enough**

We must come to God **100%** based on the fact that through Jesus, You [God] have done something for me; that Jesus has God's authority to declare a sinner **forgiven**

The more “religious” you are, the more difficult it is to **abandon** the idea that I approach God based on “What I've done”

My Next Step Today Is...

- I am coming to God, not on what I've done, but 100% based on the fact that Jesus has declared me forgiven
- I will spend some time this week reflecting on the real meaning of Christmas
- I will attend Class 101–Introduction to Life at New Hope on Sun, Dec 16th after 3rd service w/Pastor Russ

Next Week we'll look at “**An Unlikely Candidate**” in Jesus' family tree. Invite a friend!!!