

Lunch Time Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of Matthew: "The Announcement"  
Matthew 1:1-25

December 12, 2017

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*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)*

**I. Matthew Introduction**

- a. The Gospel according to Matthew was written 20-30 years after the resurrection of Jesus.
- b. Matthew's Gospel serves as bridge between the O.T. and the N.T.
- c. The theme of the O.T. is given in Genesis 5:1, *This is the book of the generation of Adam.*
  1. "Adam's family" depicts failure, sin and a family that did not resemble the image of God.
  2. Through no choice of our own every person is born into "Adam's family."
  3. But by choice of faith, we can be born into the generation of Jesus Christ and become the children of God.
- d. Matthew, the author, was former tax collector and according to Jews, tax collectors were considered to be the worst of all sinners.
- e. *Matthew* describes Jesus as the *Doer* and the *Teacher*. *Matthew* can be divided into ten sections in which *doing* and *teaching* alternate. *Matthew* also emphasizes the "kingdom of God."
  1. Many people in Jesus' day were looking for a Deliverer who would release them from Roman bondage and establish the kingdom of Israel.
  2. However, the "kingdom of God" required a moral and spiritual response of the people not just simply accepting a ruler. For this reason, Jesus did not come as a warring King.

**II. A New King is Coming, The Prince of Peace**

- a. Heritage was important to the Jews it pointed to their culture, race, and faith. Herod the Great was half Jew, half Edomite, his name was not in the official genealogies. He ordered the destruction of the genealogy records.
- b. Anyone reading *Matthew* would have been fascinated that Jesus could trace His genealogy back to Abraham.
- c. Royalty depends on heredity. The genealogy recorded in *Matthew* established Jesus' right to David's throne. *Matthew provides His human heredity (vv.1-17) and His divine heredity. (vv.18-25)*
  1. The record shows that Jesus is part of Jewish history and that history paved the way for kingship.
  2. The numerical value of the Hebrew letters for "David" equals fourteen. The "three fourteens" used in relation to the generation names was used for easy memorization of Jesus heritage. (v.1)
- d. We find four women in the list: Tamar (pretended to be a prostitute and was an adulteress); Rahab (a prostitute); Ruth (a Moabite and converted Jew); Bathsheba (Uriah's wife)
- e. Jesus was born of an earthly mother without the need of an earthly father.
- f. The name *Jesus* means "Savior" and comes from the Hebrew name, Joshua (*Jehovah is salvation*).
- g. There were many boys named "Jesus", but Mary's boy was called Jesus the Christ (*anointed or Messiah* in the Greek language)

**III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action**

- a. Why list women? They had no legal rights and lived completely under the power of her husband.
- b. *Matthew* illustrates that the barriers between men and woman, Gentiles and Jews, and good people and bad people are broken down. *There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace. (Romans 3:22-224)*
- c. The genealogy of Jesus represents many things: 1) everyone has a past; 2) all things work together for the good; 3) Jesus is fully aware of the human condition
- d. Your life history means something, especially when Jesus Christ gives it meaning. Celebrate Him!