



CHRISTMAS IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Matthew 1:1-17 - The Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew begins his account of the life of Jesus with a long genealogy. As we work our way through it we can see...

1) God keeps his word

- Why do you think Matthew starts his gospel with a list of names rather than an account of Jesus' birth?
- Read Genesis 12:2-3 and 2 Samuel 7:12-13. What do they show us about how significant Abraham and David are in Jesus' genealogy?
- How does God keeping his word through all these generations help encourage us to keep going in our faith?

2) ...despite human sinfulness

- What does the inclusion of people like Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, David and Bathsheba, and Ahaz tell us about the way God works?
- Why do you think it is good news that Jesus inserted himself into a family line like this? How is it an encouragement to you?

3) To show us his love and mercy in sending Jesus

- How does this genealogy show us God's love and mercy in sending Jesus?
- Charles Spurgeon said: *'Marvellous condescension and matchless grace - that Jesus should leave the starry thrones of heaven...and have a genealogy, he who 'was in the beginning with God'.*

How has this genealogy encouraged you?