The Gospel of Matthew Sunday School Study

September 7, 2025

**Part 1: The Genealogy of Jesus Christ (1:1-17)**

**God shows Grace to Those Who are Undeserving Because He is a Gracious God**

This morning, we will begin our study of the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next year or so we will be studying this gospel in 52 parts to help us understand the importance of both the Old and the New Testament in our faith. The coming of Jesus Christ and His atoning work on the cross are the foundation of our faith. As we read and discuss this together may we become closer as a church family and united in our desire to share this good news with others.

Today we will begin our discussion of the Gospel of Matthew by looking carefully at what the purpose of this gospel is in comparison to the other three and then we will begin looking at the genealogy Matthew provides for Jesus Christ.

As we all know there are four gospel accounts in the New Testament that record the life of Jesus Christ. Even though all four of these accounts report about the same person, they are written by different witnesses and are therefore not identical. This does not mean that they are contradictory or that they record events in ways that dispute each other. This means that once you read them you can get a well-rounded perspective regarding the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ which includes various perspectives. This is like how four eyewitnesses may be called in to court to testify regarding their perspective of a crime they witnessed. Each person will give their view of what happened and may provide details that the other witnesses chose not to include. This is not contradictory, but complementary.

**Purposes of the Four Gospels:**

Matthew: Jesus is sovereign meaning that He is the rightful King of Israel, the Messiah.

Mark: Jesus is the suffering servant who cam to give His life as a ransom for many.

Luke: Jesus is the Son of Man fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament.

John: Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.

**The Grace of God shown in the genealogy of Jesus Christ:**

In verses 1-1 of chapter 1, Matthew provides a genealogy of Jesus Christ starting with Abraham the father of the Israelite nation through Jospeh, His legal, not natural, earthly father. As we look at the many names provided on this list, we find that there are many ways that God used sinful people to bring about the Messiah. Today we will look at each of these situations:

*1. Abraham- the father of the Israelite nation.*

In what ways do we see God being gracious with Abraham in his life? All of us struggle with sin and the temptations we face. Abraham was no exception to this. When he was called to go to the land that God promised him, he experienced many situations that caused him to question his faith in God. He lied twice about Sarah because of his fear that she would be taken from him, and he would be killed (Genesis 12:11-19;20:1-18). Despite his weaknesses and lack of trust, God made him the father of the nation of Israel.

*2. King David- The Man after God’s Heart*

God also extended grace on David because He took a man who committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed in battle. Despite the sin in his life God made the kingdom of David strong by allowing his son to inherit the throne. Even though he was not permitted to build the temple because he was a man of war, God still blessed him.

*3. Tamar*- she was the daughter-in-law of Judah who lost both of her husbands because they were wicked. She eventually had children from Judah. Her act of deception was an abomination in the sight of God, but He still gave them grace allowing them to be in the Messiah’s ancestry.

*4. Rahab, the prostitute in Jericho*- she lied to the soldiers of the king and helped to hide the Israelite spies. God saved her life as well as her family because she had faith in Him. Once again, someone who was a sinner needing God’s grace was part of the Messiah’s lineage.

*5. Ruth the Moabitess*- because of her faithfulness to her mother-in-law Naomi God eventually blessed a gentile woman with her new husband Boaz. She was the grandmother of King David.

**Conclusion**

What have we learned about our God in the genealogy of Jesus Christ? We have learned that our God uses those who might seem to be unusable to accomplish His purposes. Through the lives of many in the lineage of Christ we see how God gave unmerited grace to those who were outcasts and not considered worthy of such salvation.

What we learn, from the very beginning of Matthew’s gospel, is that God can use each of us to accomplish His will even though we may have episodes in our lives that we are ashamed of. What we need to do is be willing to be used for His glory. Every life that is lived in this world in one way or another brings glory to God. Those who reject Him bring Him glory through the justice of God. Thise who accept Christ bring glory to God because that shows His grace and mercy to sinners who are undeserving of such mercy. May we always show our appreciation to God who grants us such mercy!