

“Jesus Is...The Center of History”

New Day Church

William Whaley

October 4, 2015

Matthew 1:2-17

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Last week we began an 11-week series from the Gospel of Matthew titled “Jesus Is...” We saw that Jesus Is the Promised Offspring that will crush Satan’s head and bless the whole world. He is the Promised King Whose reign has begun and He demands our allegiance. He is the Promised Messiah Who rules with authority as King, represents God to us as Prophet, and represents us to God as Priest. Finally we learned Jesus is the Promised Savior Who will save you from the bondage and consequences of sin. This Jesus is the Only hope for the world.

This week we studied the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew begins his Gospel story by connecting Jesus to the Old Testament fathers of Israel. He demonstrated that Jesus came from a long line of men and women who God graciously used to preserve the royal line from Abraham to Jesus the Messiah. Through this genealogy Matthew gives credibility to Jesus’ claims to be King. But through it all, Matthew also lets his reader know that all of redemptive history points to One man, the Man Christ Jesus!

Matthew divides his genealogy into three parts; Abraham to king David, David to the Babylonian exile, and the Babylonian exile to the time of Christ. In doing this he highlights the significance of God’s grace in Jesus’ royal line, the fact that He indeed is the promised King who rules and reigns over all creation, and the fact that this King is the only One that can save us and rebuild us from brokenness.

As you think through this content, the weight of Who this Jesus is should bear heavy on your heart and compel a lifestyle of worship. This Jesus is the center of history. Everything prior to His arrival pointed to Him, everything that has happened in history since points back to Him, and everything throughout all history will go to Him and is for His glory.

How will you respond this week? How will God’s sovereign grace in the lineage of Jesus affect the way you live today? How will His rule and reign determine how you live out the normal stuff of life? Has He truly saved you from being a slave to sin? As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine the questions on the following page and be ready to participate in the discussion. Remember Who your life is about. Remember you are not at the center. This Jesus is the Center of it all!

Message Outline

The genealogy of Jesus demonstrates...

1. God’s Sovereign Grace in the Lineage of Jesus.
2. God’s Singular Purpose in the Reign of Jesus.
3. God’s Saving Work in the Person of Jesus.

So...

1. All of history before Jesus points forward to Jesus.
2. All of history since Jesus points back to Jesus.
3. Therefore, only Jesus and no other person, power, or population, is at the center of history!

“Jesus Is...The Center of History”

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Matthew 1:2-17:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to establish their goals and objects and begin to live them out.
- Pray for the 2016 Financial Ministry Plan as we seek to be a church of disciples who make disciples of all the nations.

- **Local:**

- Pray for the Friday Night Beach Bonfire Outreach and the developing friendships. Pray these will lead toward Gospel conversations.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.