

## **Matthew 1:1-17 ENCORE**

- 1) What are you most looking forward to during our study of the book of Matthew?
- 2) Why do you think Matthew had a big party at his house after Jesus called him (Matthew 9:9-13)?
- 3) Why did God include genealogies in the Bible?
- 4) How have you approached biblical genealogies in the past?
- 5) How should you approach the genealogies in the Bible?
- 6) How important is the human genealogy of Jesus Christ?
- 7) Why are the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-77 & Luke 3:23-38 different?
- 8) Discuss some of the human ancestors of Jesus:
  - a) Judah & Tamar
  - b) Salmon & Rahab
  - c) Boaz & Ruth
  - d) David & Bathsheba
  - e) Why would God allow people & sins like those in the line of Jesus Christ?
- 9) How much do you know about the people from verse 12-15?
- 10) How does this genealogy help us understand the grace & power of God?

## **Matthew 1:18-25 The birth of Jesus Christ**

**Monday (Matthew 1:18)** This verse and this entire passage are about the birth of Jesus Christ. Many people have had different ideas about the birth of Jesus Christ. Luke 1:27 says Mary was a virgin the word translated there could just mean young or unmarried woman. By implication it was a woman who had not had sex with a man. Some argue that it just meant young woman. The problem is Matthew 1:18 (and Luke 1:34) clarify this issue “before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus conception was not of any man but was by God the Holy Spirit. The point is His birth was miraculous.

**Tuesday (Matthew 1:19)** Now we come to the dilemma of Joseph. Imagine you were engaged to be married, you were keeping yourself pure and waiting for marriage, then you find out that your bride to be is pregnant. What a heart-break that would be! We see a bit of Joseph’s character here: he didn’t make his own pride the issue but decided to nullify the engagement secretly. He didn’t know all the facts so instead of going through the steps of the Law (Mary would have been killed) he did what he thought would be best. The text calls his motives and actions “just”

**Wednesday (Matthew 1:20-21)** “while he thought about these things” I imagine this whole situation grieved Joseph. I also imagine he spent many hours thinking about what to do. I also wonder if Mary told him her story, how the angel had appeared to her and told her that she would bear the Christ. Whether Mary told him or not, before he put her away an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and filled him in on what God was doing. Imagine how his confusion would have been changed to wonder and joy at the thought. A terrible situation had been turned into an awesome opportunity; he would get to raise the Christ! Isn’t that how God often works? When things seem the darkest, His light shines through the brightest.

**Thursday (Matthew 1:21)** “you shall call his name Jesus” the Greek word is “Iasous” J’s always are I (e sound) in Greek. The Hebrew name he would have had is “Yeshua” much like (even identical to) Joshua or Yehoshua which means “savior” or “God saves”. So the angel told Joseph to call His name Jesus (God saves) because He (Jesus) would save His people from their sins. What an awesome thought even His name means salvation!

**Friday (Matthew 1:22-23)** The prophet in this case was Isaiah and you can find this prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. Mary would conceive by the Holy spirit and even though she was a virgin she would have a son. This birth would be more than simply miraculous because the son that she bore would be God Himself in the flesh. That is what the name Immanuel means – “God with us” or “God among us.”

**Saturday (Matthew 1:24-25)** Joseph again showed his character as he obediently did what the angel commanded him to do. Think about what a step of faith that must have been. This would not be his last step of faith. He would have to relocate the family to Egypt, and then again return to Israel all at the Lord’s command. Think of what an awesome privilege and grave responsibility Joseph was given. On one hand he got to be a father to Jesus Christ and raise the one who would provide the way for sinful man to be made right with God. On the other hand he had raise and protect God’s own Son. That is a good picture of the Christian life as well. We all have an awesome privilege, a mountain of blessings but also a great amount of responsibility. I hope that we can live out the example of Joseph. He was a simple man who was given much and was ultimately quiet and faithful.

## **Matthew 1:18-25 The birth of Jesus Christ**

A message on the birth of Jesus Christ and it’s not even Christmas! You can still get me a present if you want to. Join us this Sunday as we are transported back to first century Palestine to that glorious time when God Himself took and flesh and was born into such a lowly family.