

## **Mission Sunday - Matthew 1**

*Study for Mission Sunday, 20 March 2011 - Who Is My Neighbour? by Martin Goldsmith*

### **First Thoughts**

How far do you know your history? Do you know the names of your grandparents, great grandparents?

What's the oldest family story you know?

Is your family history important to you?

### **Into the Passage**

*Read Matthew 1:1-17*

To a Jewish culture, why do you think lineage is important?

Historically, genealogies were not just for pure historical records, but also to highlight significant people in the history or points. Here in Matthew, he is making a point about Jesus being the son of David and the son of Abraham. Two key figures in Jewish history. Why do you think the author makes these points?\*

Women names are usually not included in genealogies. Who are the women listed here and why do you think they are included? Read some of their histories.

Tamar (v3) - Genesis 38

Rahab (v5) - Joshua 2

Ruth (v5) - Ruth 1:3

Bathsheba (v6) - 2 Samuel 11

What are some significant things about each woman?

Are these the kind of people you would want in a genealogy of Jesus?

### **Moving Forward**

Jesus' genealogy, though part of the line of Abraham and David, establishes his legal authority to Jewish people, but the inclusion of prostitutes, liars, and villains in his genealogy is an interesting one.

By including those unworthy people in Jesus' history, can you see yourself being part of the line of Jesus?

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross brings us into his family line. What does it mean to you that you are now in the family line of Christ?

How does that affect your thinking and status?

### **Life Together**

Spend some time praying for one another. If you've got other questions about the passage, spend time talking and discussing them as well.

Reflect on Galatians 3:26-29

*"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

### **SERMON NOTES**

*\*Son of David evoked images of a Messiah with a royal lineage who would reestablish the throne in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel. son of Abraham. God's covenant with Abraham established Israel as a chosen people and also affirmed that the whole world would be blessed through his line*