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## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 12/15/2019

Matthew 1:18-25 by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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Following the genealogy of Jesus, this text outlines many of the familiar details of the incarnation of Christ. We are given detail that further supports the historicity of Christ, his humanity, and his divinity. In this text, we come to find ourselves by considering the following thoughts about Christ's incarnation, namely:

- 1) How he came
- 2) Who he is
- 3) Why he came

Answering these questions reveals much about the Trinity and about our deepest needs met in Jesus.

### Quotations

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"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary." -Apostles' Creed

"And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end." -Nicene Creed

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) From this text, what do you think Matthew believes is the most important thing for us to know about the incarnation of Jesus?
- 2) What aspect of the incarnation do you find the most remarkable? Why?
- 3) A neighbor mentions that she doesn't get why our culture makes a big deal about Christmas and says she doesn't believe Jesus was a real person. What would you say to her? Why is the historicity (i.e. that he was a real, historical figure) of Jesus matter?
- 4) What errors in our thinking happen if we take Christ's divinity seriously but not his humanity? What happens if we overemphasize his humanity but downplay his divinity?
- 5) Why does Matthew include the detail about Joseph being a son of David? Why was this significant to his Jewish audience?