

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 12/08/2019

Matthew 1:1-17 – “Jesus Christ: Son of David, Son of Abraham” by Phil Owen

Overview

Genealogies become interesting when we see them as shorthand for stories. Throughout all of Israel's history, God's people have eagerly awaited a Messiah, only to be disappointed by failure after failure. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus highlights this desperate need we still have for a savior. And Matthew tells us that he *has* come, though we must receive him on his terms, not ours.

1. **The story from Adam to Abraham (1:1)**
 - a. Fallen mankind is incapable of living rightly before God when left to itself, even in a perfect environment. We wait for the seed of the woman who will crush the serpent's head.
2. **The story from Abraham to David (1:2-6)**
 - a. Fallen mankind is incapable of living directly under the rulership of God even when God specially reveals himself in covenant. We wait for a way in which all the families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham.
3. **The story from David to the deportation (1:7-11)**
 - a. Fallen mankind is incapable of living rightly before God even when God's rule is mediated by human government. We wait for salvation through the promised Davidic king.
4. **The story from the deportation to Christ (1:12-17)**
 - a. Fallen mankind can't reestablish God's rule. So, we simply must wait for him to act.
5. **Our response to Jesus today**
 - a. Our problem is the fallen human heart, which only intends evil from its youth.

Quotations

"The book of Judges shows that the law God gave to Moses is a political failure." -Phil Owen

"Even under righteous, reforming kings, there still came a time when there was no remedy." -Phil Owen

"The answer [Jesus] was there, but very few recognized it because they were waiting for a different answer than the one God gave." -Phil Owen

Understanding & Application

- 1) In the recent past, what thoughts have crossed your mind when you came across genealogies in your Bible reading? How will today's sermon help you read genealogies in the future?
- 2) Each of the four periods mentioned in Matthew's genealogy have an aspect of failure and an aspect of waiting. After reviewing the failures and anticipation in each period (see the overview above), discuss how Jesus resolves the failures and fulfills what is anticipated.
- 3) How did the Sadducees, Essenes, and Pharisees have wrong expectations for the Messiah? In what ways has Jesus failed to meet your (flawed/skewed) expectations? How has Jesus met or exceeded your expectations?
- 4) God's Spirit often brings one particular truth or emphasis to our mind as we sit under the preaching of his Word. Take a moment to reflect on the one main truth God wanted you to hear on Sunday. For example, did God freshly remind you of his faithfulness to bring about salvation? Share with your group how this truth from God's Word changes how you hope to live tomorrow.