**December 9, 2018 “The Genealogy a Picture of Grace” Matthew 1:1-17**

As most of you know, there are four Gospels in the Bible. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. You will find some of the same renditions of the life of Jesus in many instances but told from different perspectives. At times you will find that there is only one mention of a particular instance recorded in only one of the Gospels.

What many people do not know is that the Gospels were written to appeal to different groups of people while maintaining the universality of the message of hope.

For example, the Gospel of Matthew was written primarily to the Jews who were looking for the Messianic Kingdom. That is why many times in the book of Matthew Jesus refers to the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 3:2; Matthew 5:3). In fact the words Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God are mentioned 33 times in the Book of Matthew… once for every year of Jesus’ life.

The Gospel of Mark was written to appeal to the Romans as Mark is a Roman name. In the book of Mark, you will find Jesus as the perfect obedient servant because during the time of the Roman society, there were approximately 60 million slaves and to have one who was obedient, wise and learned in the things of the world was a great asset to his or her owner. That is why in the book of Mark you will often find the word “immediately or straightway.” (i.e. Mark 1:10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30)

The Gospel of Luke was primarily written to the Greeks and if you know a little about Greek mythology, you will recall that all their gods like Thor, Ulysses and Zeus all had human aspects but all had human flaws. Jesus in the book of Luke is portrayed as the perfect man and is often time referred to the book of Luke as the “Son of Man”, (the virgin birth, obedient to His parents, never convicted of sin, without flaws).

The Gospel of John was written to the universal Church of Christ and throughout that book you will find Jesus called over and over again, “The Son of God”. (In the beginning was the Word… and John 1:32-34)

But our emphasis this morning is on the first 17 verses of Matthew.

Here is what we know about Matthew

1. He was a tax collector
	1. Two primary taxes in the Roman systems
		1. Poll tax… like our income tax
		2. Ground tax… like our real estate taxes
	2. How the system worked
		1. Roman senators
			1. Bid for the rights to collect taxes from the Jewish people for 5 years
			2. These Roman senators were called “publicani”
				1. The collectors were called “publicans”
				2. These people were considered traitors

Taking from their own

To give to foreigners

They would often time take more than required to fill their own pockets

Zacchaeus

“I will pay back 4 times”

* 1. Matthew 9:9… first mention of Matthew
1. Three aspects of the Book of Matthew
	1. King revealed
		1. Descended from the royal line
		2. Rival king wants to kill Him (chapter 2)
		3. John the Baptist (chapter 3)
		4. Son of David (chapter 1:1)
	2. King rejected
		1. His mother rejected by her husband (man she is engaged to)
		2. Family has to flee to Egypt
		3. Instead of angels singing… mothers are crying (Matthew 2:18)
			1. A thing kings frequently did to get rid of rivals
		4. Mocked on the cross (King of the Jews)
	3. King coming back again
		1. Matthew 24 and 25
2. Fulfillment of prophecy
	1. II Samuel 7:12-13
		1. His lineage has to be established
		2. Lineage important to the Jews
			1. Genesis 5
			2. Ruth… with Boaz as a kinsman redeemer
			3. Numbers and Ezra
			4. Luke 2:1-5
	2. Why look at this Genealogy?
		1. Matthew 24:23-25
		2. Jesus is the last one who has legitimate claim to the throne of David
			1. This genealogy is a descending one
			2. Luke’s is ascending (Luke 3)
				1. No matter which one you use
				2. Jesus is the One

Legal heir through Joseph

Note Matthew 1:16… the husband of Mary

Joseph is never called the “father of Jesus”

Legal heir through Mary

* 1. Note Matthew 1:12
		1. Jeconiah
			1. Jeremiah 22:24-30
				1. No son of his would ever sit on the throne of David
				2. But a virgin born Son of God may…
		2. Why is all this so important?
			1. John 7:27
			2. John 7:40-42
				1. Matthew is saying and proving who the Christ is…
	2. Second aspect… written to the Jews
		1. John 8:31-41
1. Note the three distinct sections of the genealogy
	1. From Abraham to David (Matthew 1:2-6a)
		1. The time of the Patriarchs
		2. The time of growth and miracles
			1. Rescue from Egypt
			2. Crossing of the Red Sea
			3. Water in the desert
			4. Manna
			5. Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Deborah
	2. From David to Babylon (Matthew 1:6b-11)
		1. Time decline
			1. Lord to Samuel…
				1. They have not rejected you but Me…
			2. Solomon… what a mess
			3. Divided kingdom
				1. Ahab and Jezebel… evil to the core
				2. Jehoshaphat, Josiah, Hezekiah… some good kings
	3. From deportation to Christ (Matthew 1:12-16)
		1. What do we know about any of these men?
			1. Can you imagine knowing you are of the lineage of David and working as a shepherd or carpenter or some other type of manual labor?
2. In closing
	1. Do not overlook something in this genealogy of Christ
	2. He came from a line of outcasts
		1. Matthew 1:3… Perez and Zerah
			1. Children of incest
		2. Matthew 1:5… Rahab
			1. Harlot
		3. Matthew 1:5… Ruth
			1. The Moabite
				1. Incestuous children of Lot… who dwelt in Sodom
			2. The Gentile foreigner
		4. Matthew 1:6… Bathsheba
			1. The adulterous wife
	3. What is the message of the genealogy?
		1. Grace
			1. Luke 1:28
				1. Favored one
			2. Genesis 6:8
				1. Noah found favor
		2. Luke 1:46-47
			1. In God… my Savior
				1. Mary knew she needed a Savior
	4. Matthew 1:1 of Matthews’ rendition
		1. Messiah…
			1. Son of David
				1. Bloody man
				2. Adulterer
			2. Abraham
				1. Liar
				2. Hagar

Is it any wonder why our Lord said to the Pharisees… “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners?”

That is why we are all here today… because God is still calling sinners…