

The Son of David

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's List (v. 1-17)

- Matthew stresses Jesus' role as Messiah from the beginning of His Gospel (v. 1, 18)
- He focuses heavily on Joseph and his role in Jesus' birth
 - The Gospel opens with his with a genealogy showing that he was a descendant of David (v. 1-17)
 - Under Jewish law, Jesus would be considered Joseph's heir

A Principled Man (v. 18-19)

- Mary & Joseph are engaged when she becomes pregnant
- But Joseph is not the father
 - The Holy Spirit has caused her to become pregnant
 - Though he does not immediately know this
- When Joseph finds out, he seeks a quiet divorce
 - At that time, engagement was a legal standing that required a divorce to dissolve
 - He wants to do so quietly because if others found out that Mary had been unfaithful, she would be shunned or even stoned to death
- Joseph's decisions show his character
 - He is a faithful, Torah-keeping Jew
 - He is compassionate & merciful

Divine Intervention (v. 20-21)

- Before he can divorce Mary, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream
 - The angel addresses him as "son of David"
- The angel explains the situation
 - Mary has not been unfaithful
 - She is pregnant via the Holy Spirit
 - She will have a son
 - His name will be Jesus
 - Ἰησοῦς/Jeshua: "The Lord is salvation"
 - He has come to save His people from their sins

The Foreshadow Fulfilled (v. 22-23)

- Matthew points to God's promise through Isaiah (7:14)
 - The Davidic king Ahaz who was facing enemies and feared that he would be killed & his people destroyed
 - A child was promised as a sign of God's presence & deliverance
- Jesus is the fullest expression of this promise
 - A virgin-born Savior who will deliver God's people from their greatest enemy (sin)

A Faithful Father (v. 24-25)

- Joseph believes the angel
- He marries Mary, sharing in her perceived shame
- He doesn't consummate their marriage until after the baby is born, so no one can question the child's parentage
- He names the boy Jesus
 - Naming a child was a father's responsibility
- God chose Joseph because:
 - He had the right family tree
 - He would be a good example to Jesus, reflecting the character of God

So What?

- Jesus is the Son of David, the promised Messiah who comes to save us from our sins
- Have we put our faith in Him?
- Do we, like Joseph, reflect the character of God to those around us?

Meditation Verse: *Matthew 1:21*

Christmas Eve: Luke 2:1-20; **December 29th:** John 11