



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Unbroken Promise: Part 1”

Ps. Steve Murrell – December 1, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What was your favorite toy or childhood game growing up?
- What is your favorite Christmas song?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Matthew 1:1-16 (ESV)-The entire text of the genealogy is not included; however, it is worthwhile to read through the entire genealogy.

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers..... **6** and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, **7** and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph.....**12** And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, **13** and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,..... **16** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Significance of Genealogy

Genealogy was a regular literary device during the ancient times to communicate information to an audience about the association of concepts. The genealogy showed how God had connected himself to all of humanity. Matthew wrote to a Jewish audience and made a bold claim by breaking the societal genealogy rules. Instead Matthew included Gentiles, women, and people with a scandalous history.

The list included liars, prostitutes, and murderers. Then of all things, Matthew listed the name of Jesus last. The genealogy still speaks today that despite our past, brokenness in our family, or how we might be labeled by the culture, we can rise above it because God came to us through the lineage of broken humanity.

The purpose and power of the Incarnation

The incarnation is about God becoming man in Jesus Christ. After the genealogy, Matthew mentioned that Jesus was embodied in human flesh through the virgin birth to come to earth and save humanity from their sins. Matthew intentionally mentioned Jesus as Savior first. Then Jesus as Emmanuel, meaning God with us was mentioned. God becomes near after we recognize our need for a Savior. The power of the incarnation is seen in how Jesus transcended genealogy and was the answer for the brokenness of humanity. Jesus proved his power by living a sinless life, dying on the cross for our sins, and proving he was God by the resurrection.

Advent of Christ

Advent means to wait for the arrival of something notable. Throughout church history there are three themes associated with the advent of Christ. One theme is the incarnation of Jesus, shown as a reality through Matthew's genealogy list. Next is Jesus coming into a believer's heart. This is possible because Jesus's life, death, and resurrection puts all in right standing with God if they repent and believe. Then the second coming of Christ is when Jesus is coming to judge and set up his kingdom on a restored heaven on earth. The celebration of advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas in order to remember the real meaning of Christmas. Culture has flipped it so that we start celebrating after Thanksgiving. Then we are exhausted once Christmas gets here and ready for it to be over. Hope and celebration of Christmas should be a reality all year for believers. May we have a deeper understanding and appreciation for the implications of the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How does the knowledge of your genealogy impact your view of yourself?
- How does knowing that Jesus is fully God and fully man impact your belief in God?
- What ways can you be intentional in putting Jesus at the center during the holidays?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the incarnation of Jesus that saves humanity from sin.
- Ask God for boldness to share the hope of Christ during the holiday season.
- Ask God for the knowledge and strength to seriously anticipate the return of Christ.