



Because of who we've Been

September 26, 2021

Matthew 1:1-17

Connect:

- Ancestry.com has become the world's largest site to help people track down their genealogy stories. How far back can you track your family tree? Any interesting characters in your lineage? Share of one or two.

Engage

- Read **Matthew 1:1-17**. It is easy to get frustrated in the reading. *Who are these people and why do I need to know their names?* The truth is ... Jesus comes from somewhere and these are his people, his story. The list reveals men and women, Jews and Gentiles, and doesn't shy away from those enthralled in scandal. What does Jesus' lineage tell you about your own? Does it bring hope? Why? Why not?
- Matthew is the only Gospel writer to share the genealogy account. Writing to a primary Jewish audience, it was important to Matthew to link Jesus to the royal lineage of King David in particular. This is Matthew giving Jesus some street cred. This is also why Matthew's gospel is known as the Priestly Gospel. He wanted Jesus to have high status. Luke, on the other hand, is more interested in the lowly Christ, humble and of the people. If you were writing your own Gospel version, how would you portray Jesus? Why?
- We accuse some people of "living in the past" and others for having "no respect for our heritage." Is there a proper balance? How do we honor who we've been even as we trust God enough to lead us in new directions when necessary?
- How have you experienced Broadway making "Jesus real" to our community in the past? How do you perceive we will best do that moving into the future?

Next Steps:

- To know where you are going, it's best to know where you've been. Do some research this week of your family history. Take note of what new you learn. What impact does that history have on your present? Your future? Give thanks for your history – for the good, the bad and the ugly have somehow shaped who you are today. Learn from your past and lean forward into your future.

Pray:

- *"History is important, Lord, for you were there, in it, with our ancestors and have brought us into this moment in time. We celebrate with gratitude the sacrifices others made to give us a better chance at life today. Let us not live in the past but learn from it. May we grow toward our best selves built around your love and grace. Amen."*