Pastor Dave Teixeira
September 13, 2009
Matthew 1:1-17

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Lineage (or Ancestry) is an amazing thing. In one sense, we often feel completely disconnected from it. "The life of my great-great-great grandfather has nothing to do with the life I live now." Or does it? In a strangely significant way, each one of us is connected to our past. In some sense, where we come from defines us.

This reality was explicitly important for the Jews in Jesus' day. The family from which you descended was very much a part of defining who you were. For this reason, Matthew begins his "Good News" account of Jesus' life and ministry with "a record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ." It is a genealogy of highs and lows, but mostly it shows the hand of God at work throughout history.

- Talk about your ancestry. Are there highs and lows? Famous people? Great stories? Is any part of your identity tied to your family's past? How do you think your genealogy impacts/defines who you are today?
- Matthew's genealogy of Jesus does have a specific purpose, namely to show that Jesus is the King, descended from the royal line. Based on this genealogy, what kind of King is Jesus?
- Do you ever name drop? Do you ever casually mention that you know, are related to, hang with or do business with an important person? Who is an important person you would (or would be tempted to) name drop? Why?
- Why do you think we are so tempted to name drop?

People we associate with say something about who we are. More than the rest of the names on the list in chapter 1, Matthew is concerned with connecting Jesus to Abraham and David.

- Why do you think that is? How does being a "Son of David" or "Son of Abraham" define Jesus in a certain way? How would David and Abraham boost Jesus' image?
- Who would be impressed by Jesus' connection to David and Abraham? What does this tell us about who Matthew is writing this "Gospel" for?
- Finally, the list of names on this genealogy includes some pretty scandalous folks. Who on this list sticks out to you as a shady character? What does the inclusion of people like that say about the kind of King Jesus is?