

Sermon Reflections

The Good News of the Coming King (Matthew 1:1-17)

Summary: God's promised King has come and that means that grace is coming to sinners, who look to Him as their King.

1. God's King comes by His promises and people (v. 1)

- Matthew first references the Old Testament passage concerning God's promise to David that through David's lineage, a King will come; this King will rule and reign forever and no other kingdom will oppose Him or His kingdom.
- Next, Matthew references Abraham, the father of faith, and the Old Testament promise that all the families of the earth will be blessed in the promises to this Seed that would come from Abraham.
- Both Jew and Gentile are covered here. Security in the promised One is our only hope. In Scripture, we are provided a lot of hope in the promises of God. These promises apply to everyone who will bow to Him and worship Him.
- How do the promises of God encourage you to worship Christ?

2. God's King comes through outsiders and sinners (vv. 2-6a)

- An otherwise seemingly boring passage of Scripture is significant. Three non-Jewish women, two notorious sinners and one, a Moabite ... Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth.
- Jesus came for people like that. Matthew knew this well. Jesus called him saying, 'Follow me.' He still does that today. What grace! How does knowing God rescues people like this encourage your faith? When were you called to Christ? How did your understanding of Jesus change?

3. God's King comes despite sin and judgment (vv. 6b-11)

- David's wife Bathsheba is alluded to here as well as a number of well known, sinful kings of Israel. Even though the lineage is sort of "messed up" and some are purposefully omitted and judged severely by God, all is not lost. Even though the whole nation is judged, goes into captivity, etc., the grace of God still continues.
- What is a time that God extended grace to you in the midst of a sinful choice you had made?

4. God's King comes through obscurity and mystery (vv. 12-17)

- Very little is known about most of the names mentioned here, yet here they are. God knows obscure people (does that encourage you!?). Matthew follows the 'Royal line' of Jesus' ancestry.
- Why fourteen generations? This was to make a theological point. The Jews of Jesus' day would have known that the number 14 refers to David. Even when we *can't see it or even understand it*, God is holding everything in His total control. We can only see this as we exercise and operate in FAITH.
- Aren't we glad that Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers? (Matthew 12:46-50) How does your life display that you are a brother or sister of Christ?