Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – January 19, 2020

**God With Us**

**Matthew 1**

**What’s happening in the book?**  Matthew identifies the Christ.

To follow the Messiah, we must first be sure who He is! To fulfill the prophets, Messiah must be the right person in the right place at the right time. To fulfill His mission, Messiah also must become one of us and identify with sinners. These are Matthew’s first proofs.

**What’s the challenge in the story?** How can we think like Matthew?

Remember that our first and greatest challenge of Scripture is to enter into its world, and not try to drag it into ours. Application comes only after we discover the message. So thoughtful readers will ask. . .

Why does Matthew break with convention and include four women in Jesus’ genealogy? And Gentile women

at that? Isn’t Jesus’ bloodline somehow supposed to be “pure”?

Why does Matthew leave many names out of his genealogy?

Why does Matthew “level out” the family history in three parts?

What’s with the three sets of fourteen?

If Joseph really wanted to follow the Law, why wasn’t he thinking about having her stoned for adultery?

Why do they name Him Jesus while Isaiah says that his name will be “Immanuel”?

**What do we need to know about this story?**

❑ Matthew is quite aware that his genealogy is a “stylized” iconic list, and not an exhaustive one. Names are left out, and unequal periods condensed to equal generations. The central issue is that Jesus has a right to David’s throne and appears at just the right time. Don’t expect Matthew to match Luke 3! This is typical of biblical genealogies.

❑ Matthew is contrasting God’s two covenants (to Abraham and David) with the failure and shame of Israel’s rebellion and exile and foreshadowing Messiah’s hope and grace to sinners. The progression downward is from the Patriarchs to the Kings to the Unknowns. Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:12-17

❑ The four Gentile women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba) are included to remind us of Jesus’ connection and identity with Gentiles and sinners.

❑ Mary’s virginity is crucial to the Incarnation, and it is highlighted four times (vv. 18, 20, 23, 25). Luke 1:34-38

❑ The Son of God is also the Son of Man, which is the key idea of the Immanuel prophecy: God is with us. Hebrews 2:14-17

❑ The purpose for Immanuel’s appearance is not primarily as a teacher but a Savior. Who are “his people” but sinners? “Jesus” means salvation.

**What’s the big idea (main point) of the story?**

**Jesus, the virgin born Son of God,**

**is the prophesied, rightful heir to David’s throne and**

**ultimate fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.**

**as the rightful but rejected King of the Jews**

**and resurrected Sovereign and Savior of the world.**

***So how do we apply these things practically today?***

Assurance: Jesus is the Messiah He claimed to be. Galatians 4:4

Peace: Jesus is God’s pledge of grace to sinners. John 3:16

Faith: Jesus is God’s promise-keeper. 2 Cor. 1:20; Rom. 15:8, 9