

## Devotions with Matt

April 15, 2020

### A LINE OF EVERY-BODIES

As I begin this devotion I would like to say thank you to Tory Brussow. She has been killing it with working on the website. If you haven't seen it lately she has updated it and made it more user friendly. She has also been very instrumental on doing the graphics for these devotions, getting them out on Facebook and on the website. Thank you, Tory for all your help.

I have been reading through the book of Matthew lately and I thought I would share some thoughts on it for Devotions during this quarantine time. As I am reading through the book I will comment on chunks of the Scriptures I am reading. Here is the first one:

It would have been very easy to skip right over the very first few paragraphs of the opening chapter. The genealogy reads like a Medical Thesaurus or a Dictionary and if you are not careful, it can put anyone to sleep. But as we look deeper into the genealogy we find some very interesting points that not only tell us who the people are, but help shape our Gospel Theology.

I know the main reason Matthew (and Luke) start with the genealogy in their accounts of Jesus' life and that is to show that Jesus is the Messiah that was prophesied about throughout the Old Testament. It is a summary of the entire Old Testament written in genealogy form to remind us all of the story leading up to Jesus. The main prophecy of the Old Testament being that The Messiah had to come from the line of David. Matthew's genealogy shows that.

But even going a little deeper we see individuals in the list. We see both kings and queens, princes and paupers, rich and poor, good and bad, Jew and Gentile, male and female. There was King David, of course, as well as Uriah's wife who David took as his own. We see Rahab, who was a Canaanite prostitute and Jacob who conned his brother out of his birthright. We see the fact that the genealogy is filled with all the good, the bad and the ugly and is written by a man who was a tax collector for the vile Romans, is a testament to its truthfulness. They did not try to pull the wool over anyone's eyes and make it look like the Messiah came from only the best stock. He came from sinners just like you and me.

So our Gospel Theology start there. Jesus the Messiah came from a line of every-bodies and therefore His love and salvation is for everybody. And our Gospel Theology continues in that since God used sinners, the lost, broken and hurting in fulfilling His purpose in bringing about the Messiah (at just the right time!) then He can work His purposes through people like you and me. Even in our unfaithfulness to Him, He will always be faithful to bring salvation to all people. We may never know what legacy we leave behind, but God can use our lives to bring Jesus to the world.

**“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13**

In Christ ~ Matt

