

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew

Week 2- Examining Chapter 1

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook with the title: Chapter 1
- Read through Matthew chapter 1 at least two times and record your answers to the following questions in your notebook
 1. Why do you think Matthew began his Gospel with a genealogy?
According to verses 1 and 17 what is he trying to prove with this?
 2. Read the genealogy in Luke 3:23-38
 - In what ways are Matthew's and Luke's genealogies alike
 - How do they differ?
 - Why do you think Matthew and Luke start the ancestry of Jesus with different names?
 - What might this say about the particular audiences they were writing to?
 3. What four women (excluding Mary) do you find in Matthew's genealogy?
 - List them in your notebook
 - Read the following texts and record in your notebook what you discover about these women. What kind of people were they? What was their racial backgrounds? What were their professional or ethical experiences?
 - Genesis chapter 38
 - Joshua 2:1-7; 6:16-17, 22-25
 - Ruth chapters 1 – 4
 - 2 Samuel 11:2-12:25
 4. Was it common for Jews to include women in their genealogies? For a comparison examine Genesis chapter 10 and Ezra chapter 2.
 - Why do you think Matthew included the particular women he selected, rather than women like Sarah, Rebekah, or Rachel?
 5. Re-read Matthew 1:18-25 and pick out the text that you believe comes closest to stating the mission of Jesus.
 - What connection if any do you see between the text you selected and the four women Matthew lists in Jesus' genealogy?
 6. In Matthew 1:23 why do you think Matthew highlights Jesus as "God with us"?
 - What implications does this have?