

Theme: Jesus' family tree connects Him, in His humanity, with the whole human race. From that broken family of the weak, the foolish and the despised He has raised up a new family through the new birth in the Spirit. These are heirs not of our earthly lineage, but heirs of a heavenly lineage.

Background & Introduction: How important is your family tree?

I. Jesus' Family Tree

- A. A true Israelite
 - Traced back to 12 tribes/Abraham/Adam
 - The importance of genealogies in Israel
- B. Heir of King David and the promise of the Throne
 - 1. Genealogies of Matthew and Luke
 - 2. Proving who he is and who he serves
 - In David's line (2 Sam.7:12&13; Luke 1:32, 69; Rom.1:3; Rev. 5:5)
 - Of Abraham; fulfilling national hope and promise of God
 - Of Adam; representing all humanity
- C. From "Nobles" and "Nobodies"

II. Meet the Family

- A. An average family
 - 1. Mary – of no fame or fortune
 - Nobody special – But set apart by God
 - Unknown to history apart from God's choice?
 - 2. Joseph – a small town carpenter
 - Not wealthy
 - 3. Brothers and sisters
 - Matthew 13:55 - James, Joseph, Simon, Judas
 - B. A normal family
 - 1. "Ordinary" parents
 - With inward trials
 - And outward struggles/pressures
 - 2. Family "secrets" – which wasn't a secret at all
 - Family with a stigma – illegitimate birth
 - 3. Wild relations
 - Cousin John! Mark 1:6
 - Preparing the way for Jesus
- NOTE: Jesus was born into – and lived in – a "normal," average family
- C. A faithful, believing home
 - Holding onto the faith of their fathers
 - Humble and trusting
 - D. A house with sinners
 - 1. Mary's confession? "God my Savior!" (Luke 1:46&47)
 - 2. Unbelief
 - Joseph
 - Mary
 - His brothers (John 7:5; Luke 8:19ff)

NOTE: God used *this family* to introduce His own Son to the world.

III. The Family He Chose

- A. Entering our family tree

1. No "paternal" genealogy – Eternally begotten of the Father
2. Taking true humanity
3. Entering our world – ADVENT!
 - He identified with sinners – in his birth and life – *but without sin*

B. Starting a new one

1. Not with physical progeny – but with true spiritual progeny
2. Drawn from the sick & needy – Not those who are "well"
 - Drawing the weak, low and despised (1 Corinthians 1:27&28)
 - Becoming like those he came to save (Isaiah 53)
3. Called by name! (John 10:3; 10:27ff)

IV. A New Family

A. Grafted into a new family tree!

- A family not based on genes – but on grace

B. The Church

1. The "foolishness" of families
2. Living as children of God