



Daily Reflections

December 17, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 1: 1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.
Abraham became the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.
Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar.
Perez became the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab.
Amminadab became the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz,
whose mother was Rahab.
Boaz became the father of Obed,
whose mother was Ruth.
Obed became the father of Jesse,
Jesse the father of David the king.
David became the father of Solomon,
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.
Solomon became the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asaph.
Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
Joram the father of Uzziah.
Uzziah became the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.
Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amos,
Amos the father of Josiah.
Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers
at the time of the Babylonian exile.
After the Babylonian exile,
Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud.
Abiud became the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok.
Zadok became the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar became the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.
Thus the total number of generations
from Abraham to David
is fourteen generations;
from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations;
from the Babylonian exile to the Christ,
fourteen generations.

Our Scripture Reflection

Why give a genealogy? In the ancient world, genealogies were given as a way to establish credentials, to let the world know who you are and what you're made of. In Jesus' genealogy, Matthew describes an most interesting

line of human relationships which all point to God. Matthew wants us to know beyond doubt, that Jesus is, indeed, Lord and God, and at the same time, man.

Food for your Journey

Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, extending roughly 840 years (14 x 3 generations @ 20 yrs), contains adulteresses and whores and pagan social pariahs -- and ends with the Virgin Mary ... "When we look first at Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba, and then at Mary, do we not see the full humanity of Jesus as well as his divinity? As much as Christ represents a new act of divine creation by the power of the Holy Spirit, just as much does he represent a family of questionable parentage, including our four ladies of ill repute. 'God is with us' means precisely what it says -- that God has taken on our human condition, God has become part of the human family, warts and all

"God has become one with us. We may well not be whores, or social outcasts or murderers, or adulterers, but each of us, like so many biblical characters, is a tangle of ambiguity, sometimes good, sometimes bad, sometimes kind, sometimes mean, sometimes faithful, sometimes faithless -- and sometimes, perhaps, even wondering if the Christmas story is really true. But this is the nexus of incompatible intersections. It is precisely to be with us as imperfect men and women that God has come in Christ. As Jesus would say later on, he came 'to call not the righteous but sinners' (Matthew 9:13)."

--Thomas W. Mann, *To Taste and See* (Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 1992), 12-13.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You sent Your only Son to be like me so that through Him I can become like You. As I prepare to celebrate His birth, may I realize the precious gift I have in Him. Amen