

GIFT EXCHANGE: Exchange Failure for Future

MATTHEW 1:1-17

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■ Central Church

■ December 24, 2022

■ Social Media: #GiftExchange

Christmas Offers a Future Beyond Failure

1. God offers a Future for **Generational** Failures (1-17).

2. God offers a Future for **Impossible** Failures (2-3, 5, 6, 10, 11).

3. God Offers a Future by **Redeeming** Failures (1, 16, 17).

Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, ¹³ and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹⁴ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁵ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁶ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁷ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations." (ESV)

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Does your family have some bad apples and black sheep? If we're honest, we have been the "bad apples" at some point. How does this passage give us hope in failure as we read the list of individuals in the lineage of the Messiah?
2. One of the most encouraging points of our passage is the depth of failure in some of these names. In many ways, they represent some of the worst sins in the Bible (David-Murder, Rahab-Adultery, etc.). How does their inclusion give hope to someone who says, "God could never forgive me?"
3. Read Luke 1:26-38. All the generations eventually lead to Jesus Christ. What is the significance that Jesus was born of a virgin? Is this an essential detail in verse 16? Why did Jesus have to be born of a virgin?

Quote for the Week

by Martin Lloyd-Jones

"You and I must never look at our past lives; we must never look at any sin in our past life in any way except that which leads us to praise God and to magnify His grace in Christ Jesus... When Paul looks at the past and sees his sin he does not stay in a corner and say, "I am not fit to be a Christian, I have done such terrible things." Not at all. What it does to him, its effect upon him, is to make him praise God. He glories in grace and says, "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."

Martin Lloyd-Jones, "Spiritual Depression" – Its Causes and its Cures, 1965, p. 75

