

## **Carols, Part 3**

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

**INTRODUCTION** For some people the Christmas message is difficult to believe. It seems too perfect to be believable. But what if the Christmas story wasn't so perfect? What if instead it was a very imperfect story which makes it something better than a perfect story: a true story. In Matthew's gospel we read about the genealogy of Jesus, which reminds how perfectly imperfect the story of Christmas really is.

### **DISCUSSION**

1. What are some things about the Christmas story that are difficult for you to believe when you really think about them? How has sanitizing and romanticizing the Christmas story contributed to this?
2. As we discussed in the message, the genealogy of Jesus that Matthew provides is full of dysfunctional people. Which story stood out the most to you, and why?
3. Matthew wanted people to know where Jesus came from so they could appreciate who Jesus came for. How does knowing about some of the people in Jesus' lineage affect the way you think about Christmas and Jesus?
4. Jesus' birth was good news. Why is good news not something people immediately associate with Christianity and the church?

### **APPLICATION**

- This holiday season, intentionally choose joy because of what you understand about the grace God demonstrated at the First Christmas.
- Make relationships that more closely resemble Jesus' interactions that caused him to be branded as a friend of sinners.

### **MEMORIZATION:**

Luke 2:10 (NIV) But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

1. [WELCOME]

The Christmas story has been so romanticized and sanitized that it has become fictionalized in the minds of many people.

2.

Jesus came not only for sinners, but Jesus came from sinners.

3.

This is the genealogy of Jesus the **Messiah**...

Matthew 1:1 NIV

4.

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**:

Matthew 1:1 NIV

5.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, **Isaac** the father of **Jacob**, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Matthew 1:2 NIV

6.

**Judah** the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was **Tamar**,

Matthew 1:3 NIV

7.

Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Matthew 1:3-4 NIV

8.

Salmon the father of Boaz,  
whose mother was **Rahab**,

Matthew 1:5 NIV

9.

Boaz the father of Obed, whose  
mother was **Ruth**,

Matthew 1:5-6 NIV

10.

Boaz the father of Obed, whose  
mother was Ruth, Obed the  
father of Jesse, and Jesse the  
father of King David. David was  
the father of Solomon, **whose  
mother had been Uriah's wife**,

Matthew 1:5-6 NIV

11.

**Solomon** the father of **Rehoboam**,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the  
father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,  
Jehoram the father of **Uzziah**,

Matthew 1:7-8 NIV

12.

Uzziah the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz  
the father of Hezekiah,  
Hezekiah the father of **Manasseh**,

Matthew 1:9-10 NIV

13.

Thus there were fourteen  
generations in all from Abraham  
to David, fourteen from David to  
the exile to Babylon, and fourteen  
from the exile to the **Messiah**.

Matthew 1:17 NIV

14.

For those who were excluded  
from being part of the story,  
Christmas included and made  
them the point of the story.

15.

Jesus recast the outcast from  
being part of the story to being  
the point of the story.

16.

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, **a friend of tax collectors and sinners.**'

Matthew 11:19 NIV

17.

A Leper  
A Centurion  
A Canaanite Woman  
Children  
The Least

18.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring **you good news** that will cause great **joy** for all the people.

Luke 2:10 NIV

19.

Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to **you**; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11 NIV

20.

The grace of God is the good news that the love of God included those that the law of God excluded.

21.

Christmas is more than a good story of which you are a part; it is a true story of which you are the point.

22. [Group]

23.