

Sermon: Messy Spirituality

Date: 12/02/18

Speaker: Michael Lee

Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

Last week, Pastor Michael Field invited think through some "unsent thank you notes" that we might have in our lives. How were you able to express your gratitude to God this past week?

Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read the Scripture Passage. Recap of the Message.

Read Matthew 1:1-17 together as a LifeGroup. Today is the beginning of our Advent series, "Hope is Coming," a 4-week journey to the birth of Christ. In today's passage, we see that Jesus comes from a lineage that defies the religious culture of the time. God has come to be a savior of all people.

Discussion Questions

In the genealogy, the gospel writer Matthew proves Jesus' bloodline-- to convince his Jewish readers that he is the long-awaited Messiah and the Savior of *all* people, especially all the wrong kinds of people.

1. As you reflect on Jesus' family tree in vs. 1-17, have you found yourself excluding people from the love of God in your life? Where do you find yourself today-- have you excluded yourself from God's love because of your past, gender, mistakes, etc.?
2. Pastor Michael exhorted us as a church to get rid of artificial sterility and superficiality. He said that accepting the reality that we are broken and flawed people is the beginning of spirituality because it makes us desperate for God. How can you accept your brokenness and flawedness as the *beginning point* for relating to God?
3. Pastor Michael reminded us that God's grace and love covers the "messy" stories in Jesus' genealogy. God is present in our mess and in our flaws. He comes to save all people. How have you let others' messiness deter you from showing God's love, and how can you instead become a refuge for others.

Apply: Next Faithful Step

Pastor Michael said that there is beauty when the church becomes a safe place for messy people. We find out in Jesus' genealogy that anyone can come, just as they are to be embraced by the love and grace of God. As you reflect on this sermon, what is your **next faithful step**? What does it look like to apply this message in your daily life?

Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. As you lean into the hope of Jesus coming this Advent season, pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.