

Matthew 1

May 27, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

1. The story of Jesus is a true story.

John wrote: **1 John 1:1** - That which was from the beginning, which we have *heard*, which we have *seen with our eyes*, which we have *looked at* and *our hands have touched*--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

Tacitus (First Century Roman historian) wrote: *“Nero...inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class... called Christians. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus.”*

Mara Bar-Serapion (First Century Syrian philosopher) wrote in a letter to his son: *“What benefit did the Athenians obtain by putting Socrates to death. Famine and plague came upon them as judgment for their crime. Or, the people of Samos for burning Pythagoras? In one moment their country was covered with sand. Or the Jews by murdering their wise king [Jesus]?”*

2. Jesus is the rightful King of Israel.

Genesis 49:10 - The *scepter* shall not depart from *Judah*.

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3. Anyone can become a part of God's family.

Joshua 2:1 - Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove... The two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night.

Someone wrote: *Rahab is mentioned by name 8 times in the Bible. But Matthew is the only writer who refers to Rahab without calling her a prostitute. The other writers focus on Rahab's past life--which included her life of prostitution. But Matthew has a forward focus. He's not looking at where Rahab was from. He's looking at where she's going. You see, in God's eyes, it doesn't matter where you're from or what you've done. God is infinitely more concerned with who you are and where you're heading. Rahab is a reminder of what God can do in and through a person who is willing to trust Him. And that's why she's included in Christ's genealogy.*

Ruth 1:16 - "Where you go I'll go, and where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God."

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John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

4. Jesus provides the ultimate rest.

Genesis 2:2 - On the seventh day God rested from all His work.

Exodus 34:21 - "You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest."

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I'll give you rest. Take My yoke upon you... and you'll find rest for your souls."
(Mt.11:28-29)
