

DECEMBER 23

WHO DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE!

Luke 3:23-38 - The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, (the list goes on)

Wait a minute haven't we already gone through all this earlier in December when we looked in Matthew's Gospel? Well yes, we did, but here we can see something different.

Luke's letter opens by recording not only the circumstances of Jesus' birth, but also that of his cousin, John the Baptist. These two lives are interlinked as John will be the one prophesied in the Old Testament who will prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus. But the people didn't just have to take John's word on this. A couple of verses before this genealogy, God declared publicly that Jesus was His Son.

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)

The people are hearing from God that Jesus is His son! If Luke had just carried on with his account of what happened to Jesus without putting in this family tree such as the temptation in the desert, His trial and crucifixion, we could be inclined to think 'so what! Jesus isn't really human after all!' Well maybe that is why Luke chose this precise point in his records to remind us that Jesus was fully human as well.

Luke will go on to record much about the life and death of Jesus, continually building a picture so that when we realise why we need Jesus we can also understand how Jesus is qualified to help us.

We may not like to think about it, but we do live sinful lives. Sin seems a harsh word but when we read our Bibles, we begin to understand what sin really is. We begin to understand that we can't do anything to help ourselves and that there is only one person who can, and ultimately through faith in Him we are grafted into Jesus' family tree.

Remember, although Jesus is the Son of God, He also for a time was human as well. He was born, lived and died. His birth was special, His life was special, and His death and ascension into heaven was His greatest gift to us. By believing in Jesus as our Saviour we gain everything.

So, Jesus ***knew*** He was the Son of God; ***do you know who you*** are in Him?