

**SERIES:** *Christmas: Past, Present & Future*  
**TITLE:** *Past*  
**SPEAKER:** *Pastor Bob Marvel*  
**PASSAGE:** *Matthew 1: 1-21*  
**DATES:** *December 4-5, 2021*

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## MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

- The first Christmas tree was a family tree - a family of unfit, unclean outcasts and sinners.
  - Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Of the numerous variations of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," which one or two are your favorites and why?
  - What of your own Christmases past brings the most positive memories and nostalgia? Is there one that brings a sense of cringe or worse?
  - Have you ever done a genealogy search to find out who your distant relatives were? How many generations back do you know the names on your own family tree? Do you know many of their stories?
  - Matthew listed 3 sets of 14 generations in the opening of his gospel. Why is it significant that he included women, and the particular women he chose?
  - What kinds of thoughts and feelings arise when you think about Pastor Bob's statement that the names in Jesus' lineage had been listed "to expose the guilty" instead of "changed to protect the innocent?"
  - How does spotlighting sin magnify God's grace?
  - What does Jesus' genealogy reveal about The Father's nature and the purpose of Jesus' incarnation? (*see Matthew 1:21 and 9:13.*)
  - Read Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24. How does it make you feel to read that God knows everything about you (from the moment of your conception through how many days he has ordained for you to live) and that He chose you?
  - How does it make you feel realizing that He knows you and He chose you?
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## NEXT STEPS

- Take some time to reflect on your brokenness, and give thanks for what Christmas really means.
- Think of some ways you can demonstrate your gratitude for the gift of Christmas this week.