

December 7, 2025

"The Lord Descends for Us" – Bobby Warrenburg

Matthew 1:1-17

1. Matthew organizes Jesus' genealogy into three sections of 14 generations each, with "exile" as the pivot point. Why do you think Matthew chose to structure it this way rather than just listing names? What is he trying to communicate about who Jesus is?
2. The sermon highlighted how the number seven (and multiples like 14 and 42) point to Sabbath, rest, Jubilee, and homecoming. Where do you see this theme of "coming home" or "restoration" in the genealogy itself? (Look especially at verses 1, 11-12, and 16-17)
3. How does the very structure of this genealogy (high point → exile → Messiah) reflect the "V" shape of Jesus' mission—descending into our darkness to bring us up into God's life?
4. The sermon mentioned three common ways people try to close the gap with God: the moralist (keeping rules), the mystic (seeking experiences), and the mind (getting beliefs right). Which of these resonates most with your own spiritual journey? How is Jesus' way different from all three?
5. The sermon described exile as feeling disconnected – from purpose, place, people, or peace. It's that "something is missing" feeling. Where do you most experience this sense of exile in your life right now?
  - Disconnection from purpose? (What's the point of all this?); Disconnection from place? (Where do I belong?); Disconnection from peace? (Internal conflicts pulling you in different directions?); Other forms of disconnection?
6. The sermon used the image of running faster and faster on a treadmill but not actually going anywhere. Do you relate to this? What keeps the treadmill running in your life?
7. The sermon concluded with three ways Christians can live in a world still marked by exile: as aliens (detached), visitors (just passing through), or ambassadors (engaged representatives of heaven's kingdom). Which posture do you find yourself defaulting to? What would it look like for you to live more as an ambassador this week?
8. Jesus' pattern is descending (letting go, dying to self, serving) in order to ascend (resurrection, life, bringing others up). Where is God inviting you to descend—to let go of ego, agenda, competition, or control—so that you and others might experience His life?
9. If Jesus has truly ended our exile and brought us home to God, how should that change the way we live this week? What would it look like to live from that identity rather than still striving to "close the gap"?
10. Jesus didn't just rescue us *from* exile, but *for* relationship—for home with Him. Who in your life is experiencing exile (disconnection, lostness, searching)? How might God be inviting you to "go out to where they are" and point them toward home?

Closing Prayer: Take time to pray for one another based on what was shared, especially praying that we would experience and extend Jesus' mission of bringing people from exile to home.