

Can I Get A Witness? *The Great King?*

If you were asked to perform or speak, who would you want to introduce you? Often when I am asked to present, the person tasked with my bio usually mispronounces my name or emphasizes things about me I would rather not have mentioned. Introductions matter, especially when you have a last name like *Pickell*. In this weeks lesson we have a whole cloud of witnesses that emerge one at a time to remind us of who Jesus is. Some of them are the most unlikely characters, and some acknowledge who he is by default - but each one helps tell the story. Pay close attention this week to the list of witnesses provided by Matthew that introduce us to Jesus.

Journey Together:

- 1). Who would you want to introduce you to others and why?
- 2). What would you most like people to know about you?
- 3). What is the most important thing to know about a person?

Road Map: Matthew 1:1-17.

- 4). Why would Matthew choose to introduce Jesus by tracing his family history? What can we learn about Jesus from his genealogy?
- 5). What surprises you most about the names in this list? If you could leave out some of these people to protect Jesus reputation which ones would you strike from the list and why?

Read Matthew 1:18-25, and chapter 2 & 3

- 6). So far the entire Old Testament is referenced in the genealogy of Jesus as a witness of who he is. List some of the other important witnesses who provide testimony about the person of

Jesus. What are all these characters saying about Jesus? Who is he and why is this important?

- 7). Everyone from the Old Testament record (genealogy) which moves us from Abraham to Jesus in one grand historical sweep - to King Herod and the Devil himself, all know who Jesus is. How does this help inform our view of Jesus?
- 8). How does this great cloud of witnesses right in the beginning of Matthew impact our obedience and discipleship to Jesus? What difference does it make that we are becoming disciples of “King” Jesus?
- 9). Becoming Lord of our lives is the first step or competency in discipleship. When did Jesus become king in your life? What steps would you need to take for him to take the throne of your heart?
- 10). What further questions do you have from this weeks reading?

Discipleship Challenge: Our challenge this week after rereading Matthew 1-3 - is to surrender to Jesus as the rightful king of our hearts and to offer him the very first place in all we do. In fact, as a disciple this is our first act of every day – to begin each day acknowledging Jesus as Lord of all.

- 11). How can this group pray for you right now?

My Journey:

- 1). How has God been using journey in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?
- 2). How is surrender to Jesus different than merely believing in and accepting him?
- 3). How can this group pray for you today?