

ADVENT THREE, THURSDAY, 17TH DECEMBER

Matthew 1: 1-17

The Genealogy of Jesus

We are a week away from Christmas Eve. Today's gospel is the Genealogy of Jesus. This genealogy spans the whole history of salvation, from Abraham on, through David up to Jesus. From this we do note that the coming of Jesus is situated within the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. The list contains saints and sinners, honest and corrupt figures. Thus Jesus's own family tree, is a mix of holy and unholy figures, public sinners and outcasts. Yet each played an important role and no one's life was insignificant to God's plan. Jesus does own his family story. He does not airbrush out any one of his ancestors. All this reflects God's gracious choices. God could work through all kinds of people. It shows us that Jesus was fully inserted into the human story with its gifts and failures. Seeing that, why would we be surprised at Jesus' choice of disciples or that he was at home with tax collectors and sinners?

In an age where many are interested in their roots, would I be happy with that background of Jesus? Where do I find my identity? Let us ask the Lord to help us accept the gifts and limits of our life and let him work through them so that we are firmly rooted in him. How do I see my call to follow Jesus in the light of that genealogy?