



# A Blessed Christmas

Week 1:  
Surprising Heritage



The Nativity



The Beatitudes

1. Both deal with joy.
- 2.
- 3.

“The Beatitudes come like a bolt out of the blue for any who think religion as a sad and miserable affair. Maybe ‘religion’ is. But the kingdom of God is quite different. In participating, we are the way God meant us to be, and so it is inevitably the happy life. And that is what BLESSED means: **made happy by God.**”

Matthew Green

# The Nativity



# The Beatitudes

1. Both deal with joy.
2. Both are counter-cultural.
- 3.

# The Upside Down Kingdom of God



The Nativity



The Beatitudes

1. Both deal with joy.
2. Both are counter-cultural.
3. Both reveal God's nature.



**Marie  
Antoinette**

**Harriet  
Tubman**

**Victor  
Hugo**

# Matthew 1

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: <sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. <sup>3</sup> Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron.




Hezron was the father of Ram.<sup>4</sup> Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon.<sup>5</sup> Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse.<sup>6</sup> Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of

Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah). <sup>7</sup> Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa. <sup>8</sup> Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram. Jehoram was the father of Uzziah. <sup>9</sup> Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah. <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah

was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah. <sup>11</sup> Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon). <sup>12</sup> After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was

the father of Azor. <sup>14</sup> Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Eliud. <sup>15</sup> Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. <sup>16</sup> Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.



**Did your  
eyes get  
heavy?**



**God knows each  
person listed.**



**God knows each  
person listed.**



**It's not a  
pretty list.**

# Surprising Heritage

**Liars**

**Murderers**

**No Moral Fiber**

**Child Abuser**

**Wife Stealer**

**Tamar**

**Rahab**

**Bethsheba**

**Ruth**



**God knows each  
person listed.**

**It's not a  
pretty list.**

**God chose to be  
part of this  
family.**

## Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the  
poor in spirit, for  
theirs is the  
kingdom of  
heaven. (NIV)

They are blessed  
who realize their  
spiritual poverty,  
for the kingdom of  
heaven belongs to  
them. (NCV)

In our own Lord's day, it was **not the Pharisee** who entered the kingdom, who thought they were rich, so rich in merit that they thanked God for their attainments; **nor the Zealots** who dreamed of establishing a kingdom by blood and sword; but publicans and prostitutes, **the rejects of human society**, who knew they were so poor they could offer nothing and achieve nothing.

- John Stott

**Christmas isn't just some day we  
celebrate – it is one to imitate.**

- **The spirit of Christmas is poor.**
- **The design of Christmas is to be with.**
- **The joy of Christmas is boundless.**

**God knows  
your story.**

**He knows you're  
not so pretty.**

**God wants you  
to be part of His  
family.**