

Sun., Jan. 9

Memory Verse: “And there was a voice from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased.’” -Luke 3:21b

Message: “The Son of Man 2: Well Pleased”

Scripture: Luke 3:23-38

Blurb: This Sunday we read through the long list of names in Jesus’ genealogy. Why do we need to read this? Can this be important for you and me today? Actually, yes! Come this Sunday to discover our own genealogy and claim our identity as God’s child. Like Jesus, we call God our Heavenly Father!

Flip Chart List: Jesus Praying in Luke:
3:21 Baptism

[Recorded Worship Beginning]

WELCOME -Pastor Andrew

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor Andrew

“And there was a voice from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased.’” -Luke 3:21b

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Pastor Andrew

O Word of God Incarnate

Hope Has a Name

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Live Worship Beginning]

GATHERING SONG: *Not Just Stories* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“And there was a voice from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased.’” -Luke 3:21b

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

O Word of God Incarnate

Humble

Hope Has a Name

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Both Recorded & Live Worship]

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2:6-11

Psalm 2 was read when the kings of Israel were crowned. The kings were called God's son, because they were to rule by God's law. But this Psalm also is talking about the coming Messiah, who really would be God's Son, would fulfill the king's role, and rule forever. Taken from Psalm 2:6-11,

"The One who rules in heaven, my Lord, declares, 6 'I hereby appoint my king on Zion, my holy mountain!' 7 I will announce the Lord's decision: He said to me, 'You are my son, today I have become your father. 8 Just ask me, and I will make the nations your possession; the far corners of the earth will be your property. 9 You will smash them with an iron rod; you will shatter them like a pottery jar.' 10 So kings, wise up! Be warned, you rulers of the earth! 11 Serve the Lord reverently—trembling, 12 kiss his feet or else he will become angry, and your way will be destroyed because his anger ignites in an instant. But all who take refuge in the Lord are truly happy!"

SERVE MOMENT: Summer Mission Trip for All Ages -Pastor Cassi

PRAYERS -Pastor Cassi

GENERATIONAL BRIDGE: "Fathers 2" -Pastor Andrew

MESSAGE: The Son of Man (Luke 3-6) 2: "Well Pleased"

PP#1: The Son of Man: "Well Pleased"

"...son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God." -Luke 3:38

The Son of Man: "Well Pleased." Luke 3:38, "...son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God."

PP#2: *Image of a generic family tree*

During the pandemic, my wife finally pulled the trigger. Ever since I knew her, her ancestry has been a bit hazy. Her father, you see, was adopted by his father. So, he was the biological son of Reese's grandmother, but he was part of the package when they got married. His mother, however, refused to tell him—or anyone!—who his bio dad was. Now, Reese's grandmother was a Reis (probably Irish and/or German) and her grandfather was Bonngard, obviously German. There were mostly Germans in that area—around Hudson, Wisconsin—so everyone assumed that the bio dad must have been German. So, Reese always claimed, for convenience sake, that she was half German and half Irish.

But the mystery always nagged at her. So, in 2020 she finally sent a sample to Ancestry.com, just to see what happened.

PP#3: *Chart of Teresa's Ancestry.com results*

Well, much to her surprise, she discovered that she was mostly British Isles! That must be why she's always loved the British Isles! So, yes, lots of Irish...perhaps our trip to Ireland this coming summer can be reframed as a lost daughter returning to her roots! She is only a tiny bit German, but, another shock, she's more Norwegian than German! I just can't imagine my wife ever eating lutefisk!

But we must realize that this was tracking only her DNA history. Her ethnic identity was also created as her ancestors emigrated back and forth around Europe. She could very well be German ethnically, if at some point in the past her ancestors emigrated from the British Isles to Germany.

And, in reality, her ancestry is still a mystery. It did not identify any specific ancestors or give any names on her father's side. She still only knows her DNA history, at least to the validity of the process. So, she still doesn't know her full ancestry, but she does know more her identity.

PP#4: *Image of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus as the Lamb of God*

In our following Jesus along with Luke, we now come to the point in the story where Jesus begins His public ministry. He leaves His adopted father's business—carpentry, or what we would call cabinetmaking—and begins His Heavenly Father's business—ushering in God's Kingdom. And the public—us included!—are asking, “Who is this guy? Where does He come from? Why should we listen to Him?” Over the next couple of chapters, we see the people asking these questions. And we're going to listen in as Luke tells us about it, because we have a vested interested in the answers. Who is this Jesus?

Well, we hear Jesus often referring to Himself as “The Son of Man.” Okay, we've learned it's a messianic reference. But it does, then, make us ask about His ancestry. And Luke provides it!

Turn to Luke chapter 3. Luke spends the first 20 verses talking about John the Baptist's public ministry. Now, remember John, the other miracle baby from chapter 1? Last we saw in Luke 1:80, John grew up and went out preaching in the wilderness. He was known as God's prophet, who called people to repent and get ready for God to show up. He then goes to the Jordan River to baptize those who are responding in a baptism of repentance and turning to God.

Now, for some strange reason, Luke leaves out a key part of the story. Matthew tells, in Matthew 3:13-15, that Jesus traveled from Galilee to the Jordan River in order to be baptized by John. But it is only in the Gospel of John, 1:29-34, that John the Baptist is recorded as fulfilling his special role by pointing to Jesus and declaring, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the World!” Why doesn't Luke record this? I don't know, but Luke still shares so much about John, showing Him as the harbinger of the Savior.

PP#5: Luke 3:21-22

21 When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While He was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit came down on Him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:13-15

13 At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize Him.

14 John tried to stop Him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?”

15 Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus.

Well, having set up John the Baptist in detail, Luke next tells Jesus' baptism very short and simple. Luke 3:21, "When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized." There it is. Just like when Jesus was born: "Mary gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped Him snugly, and laid Him in a manger" (2:7a).

Now, here's a question: if John's baptism is a baptism of repentance, and Jesus is sinless, then why would Jesus come to be baptized? Actually, Matthew even records John the Baptist trying to stop Jesus, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?" (Matthew 3:14). Jesus says, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness." What's going on?

Draw a note to Luke 3:21 and write, "Jesus identified with sinners." Jesus doesn't need to be baptized, but He comes as our Savior, and joins with sinful humans, becoming identified with human sin and failure. He's leaving His heavenly throne room and joins our group, lumps and all! His public baptism also marks Jesus beginning His public ministry. And thirdly, right from the beginning Jesus is leading us back to God, leading by example. Those who follow Jesus do as Jesus does. We will find out that we are baptized with Him, we walk His way, we are crucified with Him, and we are raised with Him. Below your previous note, write, "Example."

By the way, this is why the United Methodist Church—and all Protestants—identify only two sacraments. We have Baptism and Holy Communion. Sacraments, which are outward signs of an inward grace. That's the first requirement for a sacrament: 1. must have a physical element...in this case, water. Secondly, they are commanded by Jesus that all His followers do. And thirdly, Jesus does them Himself. So, two sacraments. The Roman Catholic Church has 7 sacraments. They also include things that Jesus never did, like marriage, holy orders, confession, confirmation and anointing the sick.

PP#6: Luke 3:21-38

21 When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While He was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit came down on Him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased."

Speaking of example: Luke is the only Gospel writer who specifically calls attention to Jesus praying at His baptism. Here we have another key theme in Luke's gospel: the prayers of Jesus. Let's start a list of these references, too. Somewhere where you have room...perhaps your notes sheet in the bulletin.

[Flip chart:

Jesus Praying in Luke:

3:21 Baptism]

Let's go back to verse 21, "When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While He was praying, heaven [the sky] was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit came down on Him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased.'"

Remember, we're exploring Jesus' identity, right, "Who is this guy?" Well, at the first public appearance of Jesus, He's being baptized, and the clouds in the sky suddenly part, I envision light streaming through, the Holy Spirit alights on Jesus in the form of a dove, and God voice speaks from on high. Notice again the agency of the Holy Spirit. Again, He's the main actor, just like in the birth

narrative. Draw a line to verse 22 and write “Trinity” in the margin. Here we have the Trinity of God, all together. Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and the Father’s voice booming from above.

Draw a line to the word dove, and write “theophany.” Theophany means a physical appearance of God. It doesn’t happen very often, so let’s mark this one. Dove. Why a dove? It was a dove that brought back the olive branch to Noah on the ark, signaling that the punishment of God in the flood was over and new life was to begin. Reference Genesis 8:11. This is also why the dove is a symbol of peace, besides its calm and quiet demeanor!

But Luke, I think, includes this story mostly because of what God says. God quotes Psalm 2:7, which we heard earlier. Draw a note to the word “Son” in verse 22 and write, “Psalm 2:7.” God declares “You are my Son!” So, we’ve seen Jesus born of Mary, and we know for sure He is a human. But we’re asking, as He comes on the public scene, “What makes Him so special? Why should we listen to Him, follow Him?” Well, Luke give us the most direct answer. The Holy Spirit rests in Him, and God the Heavenly Father personally shows up and gives His own validation to Jesus. “He is my Son! I love Him! I am so pleased with Him!”

God is pleased because in this act, Jesus has shown that He has made the decision to take on the public ministry—the calling—that God the Father sent Him to do. And look at God’s relationship with Jesus: not one of God making His Son do this, or the Son’s perfunctory obligation...but love! This is a love relationship! Don’t miss this! Because, you see, Jesus came to invite us into the same relationship He has with the Father. He takes us into His love relationship with God. This is our relationship, too! This is awesome stuff! It’s not obligation, or wrath, or condemnation, or unworthiness. We are incorporated into the love relationship between God the Father and the Son! Because of Jesus, we can hear these words by God spoken also to us! “You are my son, whom I love, and with you I am well pleased!” Gives me goose bumps! That’s who we are to God, thanks to Jesus!

PP#7: Luke 3:21-38

23 Jesus was about 30 years old when He began His ministry. People supposed that He was the son of Joseph son of Heli 24 son of Matthat son of Levi son of Melchi son of Jannai son of Joseph 25 son of Mattathias son of Amos son of Nahum son of Esli son of Naggai 26 son of Maath son of Mattathias son of Semein son of Josech son of Joda 27 son of Joanan son of Rhesa son of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel son of Neri 28 son of Melchi son of Addi son of Cosam son of Elmadam son of Er 29 son of Joshua son of Eliezer son of Jorim son of Matthat son of Levi 30 son of Simeon son of Judah son of Joseph son of Jonam son of Eliakim 31 son of Melea son of Menna son of Mattatha son of Nathan son of David

Now, I *so wanted* to assign the next part to some victim reader this morning! This is a pastor’s secret weapon: if you’re ever mean to a pastor, the one thing we can do is make sure that when it’s your turn to read, to pick a passage like this. The problem is, you’ve all been so awesome to me! So, I’m stuck reading this myself.

We come to the genealogy of Jesus. Luke is again answering the question, “Who is this Jesus?” We just heard that He was God’s very own son, who identifies with sinful people. So now Luke recounts His human ancestry. By verse 23, write, “Compare Matthew 1.” It’s not easy, because Luke starts with Jesus and works backwards, in ascending order, whereas Matthew starts with Abraham and works down, in descending order.

So, deep breath, here we go!

Verse 23, “23 Jesus was about 30 years old when He began His ministry.” Here is where we know Jesus’ age. Age 30 was when Levites began their public service in the temple, by the way, Numbers 4:47. And 30 was the age of wizened maturity back then. But Luke, here again, sets the story in the context of Jesus life. And, next, in the context of Jesus ancestry. “People supposed that He was the son of Joseph [See, not the *actual* son of Joseph. Joseph, says Luke, was the] son of Heli 24 son of Matthat son of Levi son of Melchi son of Jannai son of Joseph 25 son of Mattathias son of Amos son of Nahum son of Esli son of Naggai 26 son of Maath son of Mattathias son of Semein son of Josech son of Joda 27 son of Joanan son of Rhesa son of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel son of Neri 28 son of Melchi son of Addi son of Cosam son of Elmadam son of Er 29 son of Joshua son of Eliezer son of Jorim son of Matthat son of Levi 30 son of Simeon son of Judah son of Joseph son of Jonam son of Eliakim 31 son of Melea son of Menna son of Mattatha son of Nathan son of David...”

Whew, I need a breather. Some familiar names...it seemed that they used a lot of biblical names, too. But none of these people are really significant in the Bible, so far, except, of course, for “Nathan, son of David,” this being King David! Here is Jesus’ lineage back to King David.

PP#8: Luke 3:21-38

32 son of Jesse son of Obed son of Boaz son of Sala son of Nahshon 33 son of Amminadab son of Admin son of Arni son of Hezron son of Perez son of Judah 34 son of Jacob son of Isaac son of Abraham son of Terah son of Nahor 35 son of Serug son of Reu son of Peleg son of Eber son of Shelah 36 son of Cainan son of Arphaxad son of Shem son of Noah son of Lamech 37 son of Methuselah son of Enoch son of Jared son of Mahalalel son of Cainan 38 son of Enos son of Seth son of Adam son of God.

But it keeps going! Verse 32, Son of David “son of Jesse son of Obed son of Boaz [this is the Boaz in the Ruth story] son of Sala son of Nahshon 33 son of Amminadab son of Admin son of Arni son of Hezron son of Perez son of Judah [Now we again hit names we recognize! Notice that Jesus can claim to be the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, as we learned! Make a note to Judah in verse 33 and write “Jesus the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.” Verse 34,] son of Jacob son of Isaac son of Abraham...”

So, now we see that Jesus’ ancestry is traced way back to the Father of the Jews, Father Abraham. And this is what Matthew has done, too, back in Matthew 1. But Matthew begins his gospel with Jesus’ genealogy, whereas Luke puts it here, when Jesus is first in public and people are asking who the heck this guy is. Matthew, being a Jew writing to Jews, wants to begin by clearly establishing Jesus’ connection to Abraham.

Luke traces His lineage to Abraham, too, but then—watch this—keeps on going! Verse 34, “Abraham son of Terah son of Nahor 35 son of Serug son of Reu son of Peleg son of Eber son of Shelah 36 son of Cainan son of Arphaxad son of Shem son of Noah son of Lamech 37 son of Methuselah son of Enoch son of Jared son of Mahalalel son of Cainan 38 son of Enos son of Seth son of Adam son of God.”

Luke goes all the way back to Adam! Do you see this? Whereas Matthew only shows that Jesus is the savior for the Jews, Luke is establishing powerfully that Jesus came as the Savior for all people, to fix the sin that began right back in the Garden of Eden! Write a note to Adam’s name and say, “Jesus savior for all people.”

PP#9: Genealogies of Jesus

Matthew: Back to Abraham (“Jacob was the father of Joseph...” 1:16)

Mark: N/A

Luke: Back to Adam (“Joseph the son of Heli...” 3:23)

John: Back to pre-creation (1:1)

Alright, I need to address something. Matthew and Luke give the genealogies of Jesus. From Father Abraham to King David the two accounts are identical. But from King David to Joseph, they are completely different! What gives? Some say this proves the Bible is full of errors. But Christians have always claimed that both accounts of Jesus’ genealogy are true. But how?

Remember, Luke most likely had Matthew’s Gospel available to him. So why would Luke write such a different account? We’re going to rule out that Matthew got it wrong and Luke had to correct it, because we’re going to accept that both accounts are true.

Some resolve this by claiming that Matthew gave Joseph’s lineage back to David, whereas Luke is actually giving Mary’s lineage. Remember, both are descendants of David. I guess this could be true, and Luke could be hiding it because women’s genealogies were not regarded as important. But Luke specifically says that Heli is the father of Joseph.

Now, when you look at the two lists closely, Matthew traces the lineage from King David down through the royal lineage of the reigning kings, through Solomon. Luke’s list goes down through an obscure son of David named Nathan, named after the famous prophet. The best theory I’ve heard is that Joseph literally had two dads, one bio and one adopted. Matthew perhaps provides the ancestry through Joseph’s *biological* father, Jacob, who is traced through the kings of Israel. Luke perhaps provides the ancestry through Joseph’s adopted father, Heli, who is traced through Nathan back to David. Joseph, then, is like his son Jesus, having a bio father and an adopted father! And, mind you, just like all of us: we have earthly fathers, and thanks to Jesus, we have our Heavenly Father!

It makes a nice thought, right? But I don’t really know. Like everyone else since Luke, I am frustrated the Luke didn’t explain what he was doing! Stop making me guess! Right? Just add a note! But, in Luke’s defense, I suppose, it may not have mattered to Theophilus. But it matters to the rest of us! Well, it’s one of those mysteries we may never know until heaven.

PP#10: “...son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.” -Luke 3:38

What I really don’t want you to miss, however, is the end of the chapter here. Luke ends his genealogy with “son of Adam, son of God.” Have you ever thought much about that, about God being Adam’s direct Father? Jesus is God’s Son, through the special conception of the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary, and validated at Jesus’ baptism by the Heavenly Voice. But Jesus was also God’s human son through the human ancestry back to Adam, who was also God’s son. Jesus is God’s Son on both sides! And in so doing, Luke also reminds us that through Adam, we are also God’s children! Not like Jesus in His divinity, but like Jesus in His humanity!

PP#11: *Image showing that we are God’s beloved children*

So, by recording all this, Luke is showing that Jesus came as the Savior for all people. Why? Because all people are God’s children! God loves His Son, and all His human children, too! Yes, the Jews are God’s Chosen People, but don’t miss this: they are not chosen to *be His children*. All

people are! The Jews are chosen for a purpose, for a mission: to bring His salvation for the whole world. Don't get too stuck on tracing the lineage to Abraham. What matters is that Jesus came to restore all people in their relationship with God as their Heavenly Father.

And this is why Luke goes to such great pains to include Jesus' genealogy. Yes it help answers who He is. Yes, it places Jesus in concrete, historical context. Yes Jesus is in lineage to King David and Abraham. But also, just like all the rest of us, Jesus is fully human and therefore can be the Savior of all humans!

Like my wife, we may not be able to trace our ancestry back very far. We may not have any valuable pedigree. But also like my wife, we can still be sure of our heritage and identity. It's in our DNA—literally—all the way back to Adam. We have God's image! We are God's children, created by God, loved by God, deemed worthy by God, actively redeemed by God. And because in His humanity Jesus is our brother, He restores us to our right relationship with our Heavenly Father. He incorporates us into the love between the Father and the Son. And as redeemed family, we get to share in His inheritance, an inheritance of love, of life, of peace, of eternity.

Did you ever think you could get so excited by a long list of unpronounceable names? Yet reading this list is a bit like discovering our own lost ancestry! We can have confidence in our restored identity as God's children. We claim Jesus as our brother, and God as our Father. Because of our past in Jesus, our future looks eternal! Hallelujah! Happy New Year!

Amen.

SONG: *The Same Love* -Sanctify

OFFERING: -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God's work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in, drop it off or, most conveniently, you can make an electronic transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the "square" on the bulletin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Wednesday night: Men serving Spaghetti, and All-Church Game Night

Next Sunday's message: The Son of Man: Jesus' Temptation - Pastor Andrew

Read ahead: Luke 4:1-30

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

"And there was a voice from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I am well pleased.'" -Luke 3:21b

BENEDICTION -Pastor David

POSTLUDE -Sanctify