

THE BIG IDEA: Where we came from has more to do with where we're going than where we are right now.

The Take-Off

Not sure if you know this or not, but forgetting things is quite common. In fact, most researchers say that on average, we forget 4 things a day, and men forget more than women.

Over a year, that means we're forgetting 1,400 things, and the #1 thing that people forget is...

Wait, I forgot. ;)

Really, the one thing people forget more than any other - according to the study - is why they went into a room.

But I think there are weightier things to forget, and most of them are tied to forgetting where we came from

Our culture is into genealogy right now - people are signing up left and right to services like ancestry.com

In fact, that one company is bringing in over half a BILLION dollars a year for one simple reason:

People are trying to find meaning WHERE THEY ARE by finding the meaning in WHERE THEY CAME FROM

Maybe this genealogy of Jesus - this long list of names that we don't recognize and can't pronounce - means more than we think. Maybe there's a reason why - right before Jesus went into his public ministry - Luke thought it was important to remind us all where he came from.

Even for Jesus, we see the truth in this passage of our Big Idea: that **where we came from has more to do with where we're going than where we are right now.**

Let me set the stage for this morning by reminding us where this long list

Give me just a bit of freedom to imagine, ok? We know about the miraculous birth of Jesus - and we know that Jesus knew where he'd come from - but he'd spent 30 years being the son of Joseph, and now he was being reminded that he was the son of God.

Why? Because what he was sent to do was more about where he'd come from than where he was.

He wasn't sent to be a carpenter's son, or a good man, or the best preacher to ever walk the planet.

No, he had come from God as God to bring people to God.

And so God said it out loud at the baptism (v. 22 - "You are my son!") and Luke backed it up with a genealogy that took Jesus all the way back to God (v. 38).

Why? Because Jesus was going on a mission to help bring all of us back to who we were created to be.

It's so important to remember where we came from, and when we do, here are 4 truths we won't forget:

1. We were made BY GOD in order to live FOR GOD

- a. I love the truth of Ephesians 2:10 - that we were made BY GOD in order to live FOR GOD
- b. A lot of us accept that we were made by God - and we really accept that we're his MASTERPIECE - but we weren't created to sit on the shelf and be looked at
- c. We were made to DO what we were MADE to do!
- d. At Jesus' baptism, God reminded him of who he was and where he'd come from - You're MY son
- e. Remembering that we came from God for God should keep us from insulting God with small lives

2. We were made for a PURPOSE IN TIME more than for a PERIOD OF TIME

- a. Our culture highlights the period of time. A lot!
- b. "Get all you can while you can!" "YOLO!!" are good examples of that.
- c. Social media feeds are full of inspirational quotes about squeezing as much life as we can into the years we live, but we weren't made for a period of time; we were made for a purpose in time.
- d. Whether we live 5 years, 25 years, or 125 years, the point is that we would fulfill the purpose for which God made us
- e. I love Acts 13:36, and would love for it to be on my tombstone some day.
- f. "When David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep."
- g. You and I were made ON PURPOSE, FOR PURPOSE

3. Where we are CURRENTLY isn't as important as where we were ORIGINALLY

- a. Do you know what I love about the genealogy of Jesus, both here in Luke and in Matthew?
- b. Bad relatives didn't mess up a good plan!
- c. In Jesus' genealogy is a murderer, and adulterer, a product of rape, and the son who was conceived when a man slept with his son'd fiancé while she was disguised as a prostitute!

- d. And you thought YOU had a jacked up family??!!
- e. Here's the point: all of us face circumstances and situations that make us feel like we've lost our way
- f. Call it a case of spiritual amnesia; we wake up and realize that who we are is someone we don't even recognize
- g. We say things like, "I'm better than this," or "There's got to be more to life than this."
- h. And it's true. Like Jeremiah, you and I have been created with a call - look at Jeremiah 1:5!
- i. When God creates us with a call, you and I are never too small.

4. **The MEANING OF LIFE is determined by the ORIGIN OF LIFE**

- a. I'm not sure if you've noticed it or not, but the longer we talk about where we came from - God - the straighter you've begun to sit, the more pumped you've begun to feel about where you're going
- b. It's because when the beginning of our life is significant, the rest of our lives will be, too
- c. By removing God from the origin of life, we've removed any significance from the rest of life
- d. But Psalm 139:13-18 is true
 - because God formed me, I praise (v. 14)
 - because God formed me, I trust (v. 16)
 - because God formed me, I am overwhelmed and I am never alone (vv. 17-18)
- e. It is recognizing the CREATOR OF LIFE that allows us to value the SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Landing

If you've lost your way, if you've got spiritual amnesia, if you feel caught in the rat race and routine of life, the answer isn't to try harder going forward.

The answer is to look back and remember where you came from.

To remember that where you came from has more to do with where you're going than where you are right now.

There is hope in that truth.

There is a future in that truth.

And once Jeremiah realized that he had been created with a call, he went on to pen these words in Jeremiah 29:11 -

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Let's pray.