The first verse of the Gospel of Matthew identifies Jesus as Christ, Son of David and Son of Abraham

* Unfortunately – this Christ does not conform to human expectations – for the Jewish people of his time or the present day
* The world moves on to pluralism – relative truth and diversity for their salvation

The genealogy of Jesus helps answer the question: who is Jesus?

The origin of Jesus: human misunderstanding

* Joseph finds Mary pregnant and moves forward with a pious uninformed decision to cancel their legal marriage
* Joseph, for the right reasons is about to do the wrong thing – but God intervenes

The misinformed intentions of Joseph provide insight into his character

In the well-intentioned incomprehension of Joseph we find trusting faith as a creation of the Holy Spirit

* The law of God is written on our hearts
* The saving ways of God in the Gospel must be divinely revealed
* Luther captures this doctrine in the Small Catechism’s Explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles Creed: *I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel*

Joseph is a new creation – faithful divine perspective replaces human understanding

We pause here for a cogent point – the purpose of God is not only to forgive us our sins – Jesus also saves us from our sins

What a message for Joseph to receive – the conception of Jesus in Mary is from the Holy Spirit

The role of Joseph also appears in the citation of Isaiah 7:14: *Look the virgin will be pregnant, and she will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*

Joseph gets up and did as the angel commanded

Jesus is Immanuel – God is with us