

Jesus as Son of David Final Days of Advent Friday, December 18, 2015 8:15 AM
Jer 23:5-8; **Mt 1:18-25** (Rethink a lot about: how Jesus is the son of David? How he has received his inheritance, and how he exercises it?)

Joseph was a righteous man and a descendent of David, but not of the elite. How could this be? The son of David you would think would be the nobility, but **Joseph was not of the nobility. The term “son of David” could have been used in a rather generic way to refer to the tribe of Judah.** We don't exactly know.

Yesterday you heard the genealogy of Matthew, which is extremely symbolic: 14 generations and 14 generations and so on, leading up to the finality of Christ, the 49th generation, the perfect 7 times 7 generation. The actual background of all these people is unknown to us. But it seems that **Joseph, who lived in Galilee, and Mary were of the landed poor, so-called *anawim*.** The *anawim* were not nobles. The *anawim* weren't really part of the elite at all, that group that had been exiled to Babylon from Israel, and then brought back fifty years later. But when they came back they were a different kind of people. They now had the Bible, at least the first five books, the Torah. And they had become a people of the book, and they had become also a holy nation, a priestly people, a nation set apart. Well, that isn't the way the people of the land lived. **They didn't live by all these priestly rules and regulations that now became part and parcel of the whole of at least the elite,** which is really all the people who were literate, all the people who were artisans, all the people who were talented, as well as the nobles and the priests, and so on. So Mary and Joseph weren't part of this group, **and yet they were chosen.**

So when we think of the son of David we have to actually question what that means and **question who David was.** Of course he became a great king—that's true; that's not how he started out. You have to think about David and Goliath and the slingshot and **his agile**

cleverness. I think of Jesus as David in this way: his agile cleverness, **his ability to move around and get to the point** in a way that the armies couldn't, because he has an enemy, and that of course is the Evil One; and **he wants to slay the Evil One**, only **he has to be very clever.** **He has to be very knowledgeable**, and most of all **he has to be a man of love because love is the only thing that defeats evil.** **So we see Jesus is like David in this way.**

Also we see that David after he was alienated from Saul gathers together all those that have problems. You read this in the Books of Samuel. **David gathered all these people together who had problems: debtors, whatever; and he formed a little band.** I don't want to call them *banditos*, but they were a little band that executed justice. And that's a very interesting story—another way **Jesus is like David, because he gathered the disenfranchised, the poor, the debtors, the lame, and so on.** So we have to **rethink a lot about: how Jesus is the son of David? How he has received his inheritance, and how he exercises it?** That's really all part of this story, and it's part of what Matthew wanted us to think about.