



## ***An Unexpected Christmas #1 :: Guest List*** **{Andy Stanley}**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Most people associate Christianity with religious living . . . an attempt to live a life filled with godly morals and virtues. Some days, we're good at that. Some days, we're not. Fortunately, Christmas reminds us that Christianity is not as much about what *we do* as it is about what has been done *for us*.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Think about your family genealogy. Do you have any famous ancestors? Do you have any family members that you *conveniently* forget to mention?
2. What do you know about Jesus' genealogy? What surprises you about his ancestry?
3. Who are the most despised characters in modern society? Which ones do you think Jesus would *not* spend time with?
4. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Jesus seems to be okay with mixing it up with sinners. How does Jesus model living a godly life without removing yourself from the company of sinners?
5. Jesus makes a statement about the healthy and the sick. Would you consider yourself more "healthy" or "sickly"?
6. What can you do this week to focus on what Jesus has done for you rather than your own attempts at piety?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Jesus' lineage is filled with shady characters, people with less than stellar pasts . . . none of whom could have come to God on their own merits. But a relationship with God has never been based on our own goodness. So if you feel like the things you've done (or haven't done) are keeping you from God . . . well, you can throw that thinking out the door. And conversely, if you feel like the things you've done are responsible for your relationship with God . . . well, you can throw that thinking out too. If there's anything that the Christmas season reminds us of it's that we're *all* in need of help . . . help that Jesus is willing and able to give.

### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*  
Matthew 9:12-13