

## “Where are you from?”

Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* (2012)

### 1. *The issue of ‘where is he from’ was important for Jesus’ contemporaries*

Pilate from Pontus: **Read and discuss** > John 18.33-19.9

The Jews: **Read and discuss** > John 6.38-42

People in Nazareth: **Read and discuss** > Mark 6.1-3 (with Luke 4.14-30)

Jews concluded: He is one of us. He is so normal.

### 2. *‘We know where he is from but...’*

He was one of them. But that did not settle the issue.

**Read and discuss** > Mark 6.2; John 9.29; Mark 8.27-31

### 3. *The reason for the genealogies*

#### 3.1 Matthew

a) Central line: Abraham, David, Deportation to Babylon, Jesus. **Read and discuss** > Matthew 1.17

b) Universality: Compare ‘all nations’. **Read** > Genesis 18.18 with Matthew 28.19

c) David central: Throne will be established forever: 2 Samuel 7.16

d) Jesus as the one who ends the dispersal.

e) Male line of Jesus. **Read** > Matthew 1.16

f) Four women in the list - all from other nations. Underlines universality.

g) Ends with Mary. A virgin.

“Mary is a new beginning. Her child does not originate from any man, but is a new creation, conceived through the Holy Spirit. [...] Joseph is the legal father of Jesus. Through him, Jesus belongs by law, “legally”, to the house of David. And yet he comes from elsewhere., “from above” - from God himself.” (p. 7)

#### 3.2 Luke

a) Line is from Adam to Jesus. Focus on universality. Jesus as posterity of Adam, the son of God (Luke 3.38).

b) How many names in Lukan account? 76? Or 72? Focus on eschaology? Or omn the number of disciples Jesus sent into the world?

#### 3.3 John

a) **Read and discuss** > John 1.1, 1.14

b) Followers of Jesus receive the same divine origin by faith in Jesus: **Read** > John 1.12

c) Through Jesus we have a new genealogy, going back to David, Abraham, Adam... Son of God.

