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SERMON

Jesus' Family Tree

Matthew takes the time to outline the forty-two generations of humanity that precipitated Jesus' arrival. Stumbling over the familiar names may not feel like the best use of our time, but we know that the Word reveals truth to us; Jesus is the living Word and embodied truth. So, what does the genealogy of Jesus' family tree reveal about who God is?

Take a moment to read through Matthew 1:1-17.

These verses include those who were at the bottom of the social hierarchy of the time, foreigners, the disreputable, and those who are featured in some shocking moments of the Bible. He also included five women, which is atypical for the time and context. Featuring the fullness of the human experience, this is not a mistake. Jesus did not come for the perfect and holy. **Listing out the family that Jesus comes from reveals the family that he comes for. He comes for all of us, not just for some of us.**

Let's meet the women in Jesus' lineage. From a human perspective, there are aspects of each of their stories that would cause us to discount them, but from an eternal perspective, God not only redeemed their stories, but he also chose them as the family line that would birth Christ.



Tamar / Genesis 38:1-30 / Assertive, creative, & unconventional.

As Judah's daughter-in-law, Judah believes she has killed two of his sons He, and subjugates her so that she is unable to remarry. However, she ultimately tricks Judah into impregnating her and therefore secures her place in the family.



Rahab / Joshua 2:9-13 / Resourceful, protective, & prophetic

Before the Israelites cross the Jordan, Joshua sends men to scout out the land. Arriving in Jericho, they decide to spend the night at the house of the prostitute Rahab. When Jericho's ruler tries to apprehend them, Rahab hides them and then helps them escape through the window, thus saving their lives. In return, she and her household are spared the destruction of Jericho and become part of the people of Israel. In saving the spies, Rahab acts as head of her household. She also functions as a prophetic voice anticipating Israel's occupation of the land.

Ruth / Ruth 1-4 / Steadfast, radical, & enterprising

Ruth is a Moabite woman who marries a Judean immigrant. Upon his death, she becomes a childless widow who chooses to accompany her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Judah. This is a bold move to commit to an older woman in a world where life depends upon men. Naomi protests the decision, but Ruth perseveres. She pledges total loyalty, even unto death, to Naomi, her people, and her God. Ruth becomes the great-grandmother of David.



Bathsheba / 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Kings 1-2 / Wise, protective, & influential

From his roof, King David sees beautiful Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, bathing, and he lies with her. Uriah is summoned from the battlefield to cover for the resulting pregnancy, but when he refuses to go home, the king has him slain in battle.

David then marries the widowed Bathsheba, who bears a son. In response to the adultery and murder, the prophet curses David's house, with the first consequence being the death of the infant conceived in adultery. Bathsheba ensures that their second son, Solomon, becomes successor to the throne.





Mary / Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25 / Brave, faithful, & discerning

The angel Gabriel came to tell Mary that she was chosen and favored by God to be the mother of his son. Despite her own fear, she exhibited great courage and character: "I am the Lord's servant...May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38). She also exhibited great courage and character during Jesus' earthly life and ministry. She pressed Jesus to provide wine when it ran low at the wedding in Cana, she approached Jesus when he stayed behind at the temple, and she went from Nazareth to Capernaum when she learned what was being reported there about Jesus.

As we celebrate Advent, remembering that Christ has come and hoping in his ultimate return, let's rest in the truth that our perfect King entered our world for us, the imperfect ones. The coming of Jesus marks a shift in the trajectory of mankind, an implanting of healing, wholeness, and restoration into our reality through the person of Jesus. In Christ, you, me, and all of humanity are grafted into his lineage and righteousness.

