

Richmond Hill Baptist Church

December 4, 2011

Unwrapping Christmas: Lessons from the Lineage of Christ – Four Women

Prelude

Call to Worship: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Welcome: Welcome to the Richmond Hill. Thanks for coming. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate when it comes by. Take a moment and greet one another.

Baptism: Maria Magbanua (POF Jan 2009)

Sing: *Angels We Have Heard on High, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, All Who are Thirsty*

Children's Corner: Advent Wreath – Matthew Fergel

Announcements:

1. Christmas Tree Cutting today at 2 pm
2. Ambassador & Victory Class Party on Saturday
3. Christmas Concert next Sunday
4. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering DVD (theme interpretation)

Offering:

Offertory: *Mary Did You Know*

Sermon:

**Unwrapping Christmas: Lessons from the Lineage of Christ
Four Women**

Black Sheep (Great, Great Grandfather, Uncle Ken, Uncle Becky)

Last week we talked about some of the similarities and differences in the two genealogies of Christ listed in Matthew and Luke.

Today we are going to consider 4 Women who are listed in Matthew's Genealogy.

It is unusual to find women's names in Jewish genealogies because names and inheritances came through the father.

The first of the four women that we will consider is Tamar.

Tamar

Matthew 1:3

Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

Her story is found in Genesis 38:

1. Tamar is the daughter in law of Judah.
2. Judah is one of the 12 sons of Jacob that make up the 12 tribes of Israel.
3. Judah proposed to sell his brother Joseph into slavery.
4. Judah left home to marry a Canaanite woman unlike his grandfather and father, Isaac and Jacob.
5. Judah has three sons: Er, Onan, Shelah.
6. Judah's oldest son, Er, marries Tamar who is also a Canaanite.
7. Er was an evil man in God's sight and God took his life.
8. Er leaves Tamar childless so Onan the next brother marries her.
9. Onan is also evil in God's sight and God takes his life leaving Tamar childless.
10. Judah promises his youngest son, Shelah, to Tamar but withholds him because of his age and fear of his death.
11. Tamar devises a plan to produce a child through her father in law Judah and she veils herself and dresses up as a prostitute and seduces him.
12. Three months later Tamar is pregnant with twins Perez and Zerah.

Most people are quite surprised when they realize that through Tamar and this incestuous relationship with her father-in-law the lineage of Christ is woven through the tribe of Judah.

Tamar is the first woman listed. The second woman listed is Rahab.

Rahab

Matthew 1:5

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Rahab is mentioned 8 times in the Bible and in five of these occurrences she is identified as a prostitute. Before you judge her too harshly you need to know that she is listed as a great person of faith in the book of Hebrews and James.

Her story is found in Joshua chapters 2 & 6.

1. Rahab is the prostitute who provided refuge for the Joshua's spies in the city of Jericho.
2. She hid the spies on her roof and deceived the King of Jericho.
3. She informed the spies that the people in her city were overwhelmed with fear of the Lord God.

4. She made a covenant with the spies asking for protection for her family.
5. When the city of Jericho fell Rehab's family was spared and she stayed with the Israelites.

Once again most people are surprised when they realize that Rahab is included in the genealogy of Jesus.

The third women listed in the genealogy of Jesus is Ruth.

Ruth

Matthew 1:5-6

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

Ruth was from an area called Moab. The people there were called Moabites. This race of people resulted from the union of Lot and his oldest daughter. In Deuteronomy 23:3 the Moabites were not allowed to enter into the assembly of the Lord to the tenth generation.

The story of Ruth is found in the book named after her.

1. A famine in Israel causes Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons to go to Moab.
2. Elimelech dies in Moab and the two sons marry girls from Moab.
3. Then the two sons die leaving Naomi with two daughters in law: Ruth & Orpah.
4. Naomi decides to return to Israel and Ruth demands to back with her.
5. Back in Israel Ruth is picking up left over grain in the field of Boaz, one of Naomi's relatives.
6. Boaz is attracted to Ruth and instructs his servants to leave extra grain in the field for Ruth and Naomi.
6. Boaz ultimately becomes a kinsmen redeemer for Naomi by purchasing Elimelech's land and marrying Ruth, the Moabitess.
7. Through Boaz and Ruth is born Obed, the grand father of King David.

Once you understand the disdain for the Moabites it is once again surprising to see someone like Ruth in the lineage of Jesus.

The fourth woman noted in the lineage of Jesus is Bathsheba though she is not listed by her name.

Bathsheba

Matthew 1:6

and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

The story of Bathsheba is found in 2 Samuel 11. Most of you know the story.

1. It was spring time when kings go off to war but King David stayed home and sleeps all day and gets up in time to see Bathsheba bathing.
2. David inquires of Bathsheba and discovers that her husband, Uriah the Hittite, is off at war.
3. David invites Bathsheba into his palace for a little rendezvous and she gets pregnant.
4. David has Uriah brought back from the battle line so that he can be with his wife, however, Uriah was too patriotic to enjoy this privilege while his comrades are at war.
5. David ultimately has Uriah murdered in battle and he takes Bathsheba to be his own wife.
6. Nathan the prophet exposes David's sin.
7. Through this adulterous union is born two sons of David, Solomon and Nathan, through which the lineage of Christ is traced.

Why would Matthew include these four women in the lineage of Christ?

Tamar: Incest

Rahab: Prostitute & Gentile

Ruth: Foreigner & Gentile

Bathsheba: Adultery & Gentile Husband

Possible Answers:

1. God wants us to see that no matter how bad our past is – He can use us for His purpose.

Perhaps you are the black sheep in your family!

Matthew was a tax collector! Not a fan: he had a stain. Each of these women has their own stains.

Perhaps Matthew was reminder himself that God can use anyone including himself.

Philippians 3:13-14

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2. God wants us to see that He chose Abraham and the Jewish people through Jesus to be a blessing to all the people of the world.

Two of the Four women listed, Rahab & Ruth, were outsiders they were Gentiles.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only and Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish.

3. Perhaps the answer to our question rests in the 5th woman listed in the genealogy: Mary

Mary

Matthew 1:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

His own people, His own family, were known sinners!

You are a known sinner.

God has declared all of us sinners.

Romans 3:23: All have sinned!

Romans 6:23: The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Response: *This Is Our God*

Introduce New Member Candidates:

1. Darlene Luna: Transfer of letter from Margos Baptist, Mindanao, Philippines
2. Maria Magbanua: Baptism
3. Marilyn Castillo: Transfer of from Grace Baptist Church, Calgary
4. Elmer Castillo: Baptism

Postlude: *Our God Saves*

Unwrapping Christmas: Lessons from the Lineage of Christ

Four Women

Tamar

Matthew 1:3

Genesis 38

Rahab

Matthew 1:5

Joshua 2,6

Ruth

Matthew 1:5-6

Ruth

Bathsheba

Matthew 1:6

2 Samuel 11

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