

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – November 7, 2010

My Family Tree

“Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by the wife of Uriah.” Matthew 1:5-6

Jesus was a descendent of King David, as had been prophesied. Both the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew record the legal genealogy of Jesus according to the lineage of Joseph, the husband of Mary. The genealogies of Jesus teach us some interesting things. Our Lord Jesus not only sanctified His people through His conception by the Holy Spirit and birth by the Virgin Mary, He also sanctioned and sanctified the adoption of children by His willing submission to Joseph, the husband of His mother. But this is not the only thing we learn from the genealogy of Jesus. The above passage is a portion of the family tree of Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew. These two verses record a very interesting historical perspective. They are the only verses in the two genealogies of Jesus to include the names of the mother's of some of Jesus' descendants.

We might surely ask why these women were included in the family history of our Lord. Rahab is the first of the women mentioned. She was a prostitute in Jericho. She hid the spies Israel sent into the land from the King of Jericho and thus preserved their lives. She and her whole family were spared by Israel in the conquest of Canaan. She became a believer and an ancestor of Christ our Lord. The second of the women mentioned is Ruth. She is revered by many generations for her faithfulness to the Lord. She did not grow up a believer in the Lord. She was not a Jew. She was a Moabitess. She learned of God from her mother-in-law Naomi. After she became a widow, she was redeemed by the redeemer-kinsman Boaz and eventually became the great-grandmother of King David. The third woman mentioned is not even called by name. She is identified not as King David's wife, but Uriah's wife—we know her better as Bathsheba, the woman with whom King David committed adultery. The second child of

King David and Bathsheba is Solomon and through him this woman too, becomes an ancestor of our Lord.

Every family has a story. It is not always as pristine and wonderful as many of us portray. We don't want to discuss the problems and heartaches we endure, much less publicize them to the world. Families are full of sinners. Perhaps there are even chapters in our lives we would like to forget, shameful things we want no one to know about. The comfort we draw from the record of our Lord's family tree is that the saving Gospel is universal—it is for everyone! Even the greatest of sinners can find forgiveness in Jesus. God does not spurn us. God can and does use us to accomplish His purpose of grace. Is there someone in your family that needs to hear the Gospel? Are you discouraged and disheartened about the spiritual welfare of family members? Look to the family of Jesus and see the great things God has done in spite of their sin and take hope in the fact that God can do it again—in us and our families!

- Remember: The family of God is made up of sinners like you and me. Don't be afraid to confront sin, call people to repentance, and tell them the Good News of Jesus. Someone told us—now let's tell others.
- Remember: The walk of faith is a journey marked by bearing the cross. Look always to Christ our Lord in the midst of the struggle and rely upon Him for help and deliverance in every need. Out of heartache and sin God has brought triumph for His people. He can do it for you!

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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