

From Abraham to Jesus

Main Lesson: Jesus is the Son of Abraham who brings blessings to the world (Matthew 1:1-5)

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ at a first glance is very boring, it is simply a list of names! But as we have learned from 2 Timothy 3:16, this dry list of names was breathed by God, it has purpose and meaning within the larger overall narrative. Within the genealogy we find more than a list of names; we find history, we find the familial roots of our Lord Jesus Christ, we find identity. As we discussed, knowing where we come from is instrumental in shaping our identity.

The Woman of the Genealogy

The question was asked, why do the women appear within the genealogy in the passage we read?

These women were introduced in the genealogy to make it clear that God was not simply the God of the Jews (Romans 3:29), but he had a plan to include all peoples in his redemptive work. Matthew did not include these women because they were “loose” or “shady” in some way. No, what these women had in common was that they were non-Jewish women linked to Jewish men. Tamar was a Canaanite (Genesis 38), Rahab was a citizen of Jericho in Canaan (Joshua 2; Joshua 6:17), and Ruth was a Moabite (The book of Ruth). Their presence in the genealogy shines a spotlight on the promise that through Jesus **all-nations** would be blessed.

Matthew 13: 31-33

Jesus compares the kingdom of God's arrival as to that of leaven. Leaven is used in small quantities, but its effects permeate through the doughy floury mix in which it is placed and ends up transforming the entire dough causing it all to rise. This parable shines a light on the way God has gone about redeeming his fallen creation. He begins first by selecting one man from humanity, teaching and guiding him in faithfulness and righteousness. Like leaven, these lessons spread to his offspring, his offspring grow into a nation (Israel) steeped in the teachings of God. Then within this selected group God himself comes to live among them, to care for them, to further instruct them, then finally to allow himself to be killed by their hands, only to rise again in a opening the door for the leaven of His loving essence to spread to other people groups around the world to come and take part of His redemptive work.

Never think that your actions are too small in the service of God. We plant and we water but it is God who gives the growth.

Finally [...] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)