

The Surprise of Christmas Series
The Mothers of Jesus
Matthew 1:1-17
December 10, 2017

God makes the EXCLUDED INCLUDED!

Let's look at the stories of these most surprising women in the family tree of Jesus...

Matthew 1:1-17 – 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar...5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

Tamar's Story—She was the daughter-in-law of Judah.

Genesis 49:10 – 10 *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

Genesis 38:11 – 11 “*Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up*”—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers.

Genesis 38:26 – 26 *Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.*

Rahab's story—While Tamar played the prostitute, Rahab lived as a prostitute in Jericho when Israel came knocking on the walls to the city.

Joshua 2:9-13 – 9 “*I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. 12 Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign 13 that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”*

Joshua 6:25 – 25 *But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*

Ruth's story—There's an entire book devoted to this amazing women.

Ruth 1:16-17 – 16 “*Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.*” She ends up getting married to a distant relative to

Naomi, a man by the name of Boaz. Ruth 4:13-17 – 13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The Wife of Uriah's story—Her name is Bathsheba, but Matthew doesn't mention it, which I think was designed to put the spotlight on the horrible sin of David.

2 Samuel 11:15 – 15“*Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.”*

2 Samuel 11:26-27 – 26When *the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27 And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.*

...Ephesians 2:12 – 12remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 4:18 – 18...alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. But in Jesus, we too can be included in the family of God.

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4 Lessons from the Mothers of Jesus

1. All are **EQUAL** in the presence of Jesus.

2. What the world **VALUES** is turned upside down by Jesus.

Be humble in all! Ephesians 2:8-9 – 8For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

3. God may take His **TIME**, but He always keeps His **WORD** in Jesus.

Be patient through all. 2 Peter 3:9-10 – 9The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will

pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

4. Our SINFULNESS can't contaminate the HOLINESS of Jesus.

Isaiah 1:18 – 18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

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Let's talk about the the mothers of Jesus...

1. Who were the women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17?
2. Why is their inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus so surprising?
3. Why is it important that Jesus is the son of David, the son of Abraham (v.1)?
4. What does the story of Tamar tell you about Judah and the story of Bathsheba tell you about David?
5. Why do you think Matthew didn't mention Bathsheba by name (v.6)?
6. What was different about the way Matthew referred to Joseph when it came to the birth of Jesus (v.16)?
7. What's the difference between the way Matthew starts his Gospel and the way many fairy tales begin with “Once upon a time”?
8. What does the inclusion of the women listed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus tell us about how we should treat others?
9. How does the genealogy of Jesus encourage us to be humble and grateful all at the same time?
10. If you were writing an account of the birth of Jesus, how would you start it?