

Shining From the Shadows

Matthew 1

Grace Fellowship Church | Pastor Brian Fannin | May 8, 2016

Scripture has riches tucked away in places that are often skipped over, because of the text's repetitive nature. However, close inspection allows us to see shining examples of God working in life's shadows. These places are significant as we discover ourselves in these stories.

Matthew 1 contains the genealogy of Jesus. While most of the names listed are men, folded in the shadows of this genealogy are the names of women. These were women whose lives bring into focus the God of the Bible and His glorious character.

What can we learn from the shadows these women faced (and we face as well) that teach us about gospel hope?

1. In the shadows of unbearable loss, God is active.

Ruth deals with the primal cry of our soul; Is there good in front of me when life deals me loss all around me?

Ruth 1:16-17 But Ruth said, "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."

John 10:10b MSG I came so they can have a real and eternal life, more and better than they every dreamed of.

2. In the shadows of shame, we discover God forgives and redeems!

Bathsheba faced the shame of adultery and loss of a husband and a child. Would there be grace to help her move on from her past? What skeletons do you face wondering, is there hope to move past my past?

3. In the shadows of mundane living, we find God is faithful.

The Bible tells it like it is, pulling no punches. We read of great honor and dishonor. Considering dishonor we read of the unknown woman of 2 Kings 11, Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel.

Things are fleeting and nothing seemingly stays fixed! The only constant is change. The only exception is God! He is constant and in control!

We simply don't know how much time we get, nor do we know what our lives look like with eternity in view. Remember, God is sowing a tapestry that is yet to be fully revealed.

In **2 Timothy 1: 5**, Paul calls out two women – the mother of Timothy, **Eunice** and his grandmother, **Lois**. It's doubtful they had any idea what God was up to with them. They were just faithful with the little things, like sowing the gospel in their son and grandson.

Contrast these women to Ataliah; not all are wicked as she, nor are all as faithful as Lois and Eunice. What we do know is when you love God, He works: **Romans 8:28** “God causes all things to work together for good, for those that love God, for those called according to his purpose.”

When your life is in Christ's hands, living in abandoned trust to him, no matter how mundane your life may be, your life is being woven into the beautiful fabric that has gospel hope.