

Christmas According to Matthew

The Messed-Up Men and Women of Christmas

Matthew 1:1-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 5, 2021

I. God's Not in the Business of Protecting or Promoting the Right Kind of Image

God is all about putting on display His glory and grace in the midst of our mess. That's why the Bible writers don't ignore or edit out embarrassing people and their shockingly sinful moments.

A genealogy in those days was like a resume. It was how you put your best foot forward, showed other people who you were, and why they should respect you. You would just leave out anyone you're not proud of.

It's only when we see the horror of who we are that the glory of who He is and what He's done shines brightest!

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 "For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

II. God Loves to Shatter Our Social and Self-Righteous Categories

A. You Can See a New Place for Women

v. 3 - Tamar

v. 5 - Rahab and Ruth

v. 6 - the wife of Uriah (an awkward and painful way of saying "Bathsheba")

v. 16 - Mary

The world at that time had little regard for women, seeing them as barely more than property.

The genealogy of our Savior and the grace of our God signaled a new place for women in this new covenant that He was establishing through His Son, Jesus Christ.

B. You Can See a New Place for What Our World Would Consider Outcasts

Four of these women in some way were considered outcasts in that day.

There's a lot of drama packed into verses 3-6; there are prostitutes, pretend prostitutes, liars, Gentile dogs, and somebody that's been cursed for ten generations all listed on the resume of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit throws His spotlight on these women with these backgrounds and says, "I don't look for the kind of people you do. I use the very ones that you would discard and pass by, so that no one gets confused as to who has the power and who should receive glory for what I'm about to do in this world."

See Ephesians 2:11-19

God is in the business of reaching those who are far away and bringing them into His forever family.

III. God Loves to Showcase His Grace in the Midst of Our Sin

The Bible was never written to be an inspirational book that lifts up certain men and women as heroes.

A. Judah Sinned Against God and Tamar by the Way He Treated Her (See Genesis 38)

Matthew 1:3 "And Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar..."

B. David Sinned Against God and So Many Others in His Shameful Scheme to Take Another Man's Wife (See 2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:15)

Matthew 1:6 "...and David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah."

2 Samuel 11:27 "...But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord."

God wants us to be swallowed up by the wideness of His grace and mercy! He wants us to be gripped with the fact that nobody sitting here today is beyond the reach of God's grace.