

Lineage and Legacy

December 3, 2017

Matthew 1:1-17

Why Luke and Matthew have different genealogies: It's been said that Matthew traces Joseph's line while Luke traces Mary's.

We often skip over genealogies, but if they are in the Bible, they matter.

Check out just some of the people in Jesus' line in Matthew 1, five of them being women, which was not common:

- Tamar committed incest.
- Rahab was a prostitute.
- Ruth was a Moabite.
- Bathsheba (Uriah's wife) slept with David (also in Jesus' line).
- Mary was accused of sexual relations with Joseph.

Also, just to name a few more, in Jesus' line there are several Kings (one a murderer), a Patriarch, an illegitimate son and everything in between.

Why is Jesus' genealogy given?

- We can know Jesus' line.
- It proves Jesus' family history, and that these people were not just in the Bible, but also in other parts of history. People take Bibles with them when looking for archeological spots.
- Helps us see just how sinful some of these people were.
- Jesus can save and use anyone!

1) No one's genealogy is "perfect."

No one is righteous, no not one. We all have our quirks, those things we don't like and others don't like. Maybe even those in our genealogy that would be considered the outcast or the ones that are not really talked about or discussed.

2) God uses our genealogy for His glory; good, bad, and indifferent.

No matter how messed up we feel our genealogy is God can bring good and use it.

Just look at Rahab, she is later mentioned in Hebrews 11 in the Hall of Faith.

God worked on David's heart. He used others like Ruth, Josiah and Jehoshaphat.

We can learn in the bad and difficult times.

This is not an excuse to sin, for we died to sin but God can use all things.

3) No one is too far gone!

No one means NO ONE!

Remember who the people were in Jesus' line? Murderer, prostitute, incest, liar to name a few. God can save anyone. If you are still breathing, He can save you.

4) **I am a part of my genealogy** (insert yourself in there with your grandfather, father, and now maybe kids)

When we read some of these names in the genealogies, we have certain thoughts that may come into our mind about the people (Tamar, David and Joseph). What would come in others mind about you should they read you genealogy years from now?

Maybe part of your genealogy you would rather not know about or such people bring not so good thoughts to you. Remember, you can change that.

I can be the change I wanted to see in my genology, I have choices.

- Alcoholism doesn't define me.
- Drugs don't define me.
- Sex doesn't define me.
- Ungodly choices don't define me.
- The choices of those who have gone before me doesn't have to define me.

I don't have to follow in the footsteps of those before me if it is unbiblical, I CAN BE THE CHANGE in my family genealogy.

Word to those who have a Godly genealogy, much given much required (Luke 12:48).

How to be the change?

- Know Jesus.
- Live it.
- Teach it.
- Read God's Word and pray.
- Connect to God's Church.
- Model Biblical integrity in the next generation.
- Communicate Biblical values in the next generation.
- Pray for the next generation and the next generation.
- Encourage and support those in the next generation.

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites

Joshua 24:15

5) **We are only in Jesus' genealogy (sons and daughters) because of God's grace.** I have nothing to offer Him.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for your family (tree).

Pray to be the change you want to see.

Pray and remember much given, much required.