

Can't Choose Your Family

Matthew 1:1-17

The Laurel Center

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Main Idea: God can use anyone despite their background.

Introduction

As we enter this Christmas season, we will focus on the Christmas story as it is told by Matthew. It's been said many times that while you have a lot of choices in life you cannot choose your own family. There are many who would love to be able to choose the people group that they were born into. But that is not how it works. Even for Jesus while the heavenly father decided the family tree that Jesus would have Jesus could not decide this. Amazingly, Jesus' family tree shows us some interesting things about his ancestors.

The book of Matthew opens by showing us Jesus' family tree. We find five women that tell a lot about the kind of family Jesus grew up in. These five women show us that no matter what our background God can still use us. Their questionable backgrounds are not deleted from the record but actually show that God is greater than our pasts. Let's take a look at how Jesus' ancestors show the power of God to change our lives despite our backgrounds.

Matthew 1:1-6

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, **4** and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **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,

I. Even Jesus' family had its flaws.

A The first two women mentioned were prostitutes.

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B The next two were a foreigner and adulterous.

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Matthew 1:16-17

16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. **17** So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from

David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

II. God can redeem anyone despite their past.

A God chose godly parents for Jesus.

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B Jesus accepts us despite our past and changes us.

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Conclusion

Matthew's telling of the Christmas story begins with the family tree of Jesus, which shows us that God can use us despite where we come from. Jesus does not care what our life story has been in the past and all of the mistakes that we have made. He cares about using us for God's glory in the present. The best part about the Christmas story as begun by Matthew is that God can use us despite our past and the mistakes we made.

When we come to Jesus, he takes us just as we are but does not keep us that way. He makes us into the people that can have the most impact in our world. And for his glory. Let us give God the glory this Christmas season not only for the greatest gift that he gave us in Jesus, our Savior and friend, but also for the gift of changing our lives for his glory!