

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: "A Family "Secret" in the Christmas Story"

Sermon Series: "Advent: Women From Jesus' Past" Series, #1

Sermon Text: Matthew 1: 1-6, Genesis 38

INTRODUCTION

At Christmas time, we think about pure white snow, angels, and Jesus, the holy baby king. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus in chapter one shows He is a descendant of Abraham and David. Though women are not normally mentioned as was the custom of that day, four women (in addition to Mary) are mentioned by Matthew (as guided by the Holy Spirit) for a purpose.

OPENING QUESTION

1. Are there any famous or distinguished people among your relatives or ancestors? Are there any infamous people or people who did something shameful among your relatives or ancestors?

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Matthew 1:1-3 and Genesis 38)

2. Why is the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1 important?
3. What is the family relationship between Judah and Tamar?
4. Read Deut. 25:5-10 on brother-in-law marriages. Why would this law be important for widows in ancient Israel, where they had no welfare system?
5. Contrast between Judah and his brother Joseph (Gen. 39) in terms of their sexual morals.
6. Do you think Tamar act righteously morally here? Why or why not? In what sense is Tamar "more righteous" (Gen. 38:26) than Judah?

GOING DEEPER

7. Why did God choose Judah as the line of King David and of Jesus Christ given this sordid story?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Reflect on the sinfulness that pervades all of us. Consider the love, mercy, and grace of a holy God that sent His Son to come and save us from our sins.

Matt.1:21

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (NIV)

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Rom 5:6-8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV)

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