BLOSSOMS ON A FAMILY TREE

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**DATE: 12/16/2018 am**

**TEXT: Matthew 1:1-17**

**INTRODUCTION**

Some people may question our reading of the Lord's genealogy during a Sunday service

I’m going to preach from these verses today

As we read this genealogy, did anything strike you as unusual?

What we have here is a genealogy of the Lord Jesus beginning with Abraham and ending with Mary and Joseph

The purpose of this genealogy is to show that Jesus was Jewish in His ancestry

What is unusual is that there are five women named in this genealogy

According to Jewish history, women were never given a part in anyone's genealogy

But here on our Lord's family tree, there are five beautiful blossoms that deserve our attention

For in these five women is seen the Marvelous Saving Grace of God

Give me your attention today as we look together at …

**“Blossoms on The Family Tree”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “BLOSSOMS”** (themselves)

In this genealogy 5 woman are mentioned (Which is unusual)

(What is more unusual) Four are Gentiles, only one a Jew

That in-its-self is interesting, seeing that it is a Jewish Genealogy

Three of these women were openly sinful,

The other two practiced religious lifestyles

These five came from five different nationalities

Yet with all these differences, they all shared two things in common

**1.** They are mentioned as ancestors of Jesus

**2.** And they were all sinners and in need of a Saviour!

(by-the-way) That’s true of all of us

**Romans 3:23 – *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”***

**Romans 5:12 – *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”***

First, let’s look at …

**A. ‘Tamar’ – v. 3**

***“And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar;”***

Tamar’s story is found in **Genesis 38:1-30**

Jacob’s oldest son Judah had 3 sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah

A woman named Tamar married Er, but then Er died, leaving her a widow

Since it was required that the next of kin care for a brother’s widow, Tamar was given to Onan, but he also died

Shelah was still a boy and could not marry Tamar,

So, Judah asked her to return to her father’s house and wait until Shelah was grown up

However, once Shelah was old enough, Judah did not honor his promise

Tamar remained an unmarried widow

Tamar then went into town disguised as a prostitute, tricked Judah, and got him to sleep with her

She then became pregnant by Judah and bore twin sons named Perez and Zerah

She is the incestuous daughter-in-law of Judah

Tamar was also a Canaanite, hence a Gentile

She had 2-strikes against her!

**B. ‘Rahab’ – v. 5**

***“And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab;”***

Rahab’s story is found **Joshua 2:1-24**

This passage describes the conquest of the fortified city of Jericho by the Israelites

In its day, Jericho was the most important Canaanite fortress city in the Jordan Valley

It was a stronghold directly in the path of the advancing Israelites, who had just crossed the Jordan River

Before entering the land west of the Jordan, Joshua sent two spies to look over the land

The king of Jericho heard that two Israelite spies were in his city and ordered them to be brought to him

Rahab, the woman with whom the spies were staying, protected them by hiding them on her roof

She told them how the citizens of Jericho had been fearful of the Israelites ever since they defeated the Egyptians via the Red Sea miracle (some 40 years prior)

She agreed to help them escape, provided that she and her family were spared in the upcoming battle

The spies agreed to her request, giving her 3 conditions

**1.** She must distinguish her house from the others by hanging a scarlet rope out of the window so the Israelites would know which home to spare;

**2.** Her family must be inside the house during the battle

**3.** She must not later turn on the spies

Rahab was a Gentile, a Prostitute, and the member of a doomed race!

She had 3-strikes against her!

**C. Ruth – v. 5**

***“and Booz begat Obed of Ruth;”***

The story of **“Ruth”** is found the Book with her name

This Book largely focuses on the relationship between Ruth and Boaz

Ruth was a Moabite woman that had come to Israel as the widow of an Israelite man

She had returned with her mother-in-law, Naomi, who had also lost her husband

They lived together in a humble situation, and Ruth would go to the fields each day to glean food in the fields during the harvest

Ruth being a Moabitess, was also a Gentile

Yet we see she was moral and upright

She was of a faithful person and a kind spirit

She came to believe in the God of Israel

**D. ‘Bathsheba’ – v. 6**

***“and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;”***

The story of Bathsheba is found in **II Samuel 11**

Bathsheba was the adulterous wife of a Gentile man named Uriah

**II Samuel 11:3 – *“And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”***

She committed adultery with King David while her Husband was away at war, became pregnant as a result of the affair, and did not tell her husband what had happened

She may have been aware of David’s plans to murder her husband to cover up the sin as well, and did nothing to stop it

**E. ‘Mary’ – v. 16**

***“And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ”***

Mary’s story is told in **Luke 1:26-38**

Mary was a young, pure Israelite girl

She was evidently very religious and was willing to yield her life and her reputation to the hand of a God

These are the **“BLOSSOMS”**

Next, let's notice …

**II. THE “BLESSINGS”** (in the Blossoms)

At this point in the sermon, it may be hard to see how some of these women are Blossoms

Some might even say they appear more to be Thorns

But, as we dig a little deeper into who they were,

It will become clearer that there is a tremendous blessing here for us to see!

**A. The Blessing is in their Name**

We can see here God’s Love and Grace on display

Parents in Bible Days often named their children with the hope of them turning out as the meaning of their name

Let’s look at their Names and what they mean

**1.** Tamar - *Palm tree*

Tamar was a tragic figure, a woman who was ruined by the neglect and abuse of a close family member

Her story seems to be included in Scripture for the purpose of providing historical and spiritual information about the Messianic line

Tamar decided to take matters into her own hands

Her goal was to rightly preserve the line of Judah so the inheritance and blessings of the covenant could continue, but she went about it the wrong way

In spite of the sinful events of **Genesis 38**, Judah was not removed as a progenitor of the Messianic line

The line of the Messiah did not come through Joseph, as we might expect -- it came through Judah and Tamar!

God did not condone their wrongdoing, but this fact clearly demonstrates His Amazing Grace

The meaning of her name refers to stability and life!

Like an oasis in a hot desert

Jesus stabilizes all of life

He gives purpose to the wayward soul

He is also the fountain of life

Men are dead apart from Jesus

**Ephesians 2:1 –** ***“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;***

But are made alive when they believe on His name

**Acts 16:31 – *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”***

**I John 5:12 – *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”***

**2.** Rahab - *Broad, wide*

Not a very sought-after name among women today!

Her name as nothing to do with one’s physical appearance though

But is a reference to the dimensions of the Love and the Grace of God

God's Love is Broad, it Extends to all men

**Romans 8:38, 39 – *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,” “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”***

**Jeremiah 31:3 – *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”***

**John 3:16 - *“the world”***

His Grace is available to all men

**Romans 10:13 – *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”***

**Hebrews 11:31 – *“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace”***

Jesus can totally transform the sinner's life!

3. Ruth - *Friend*

How appropriate - Ruth was certainly a Friend to Naomi

And because of Ruth Faithfulness, we have a Saviour

If there was ever a friend to the sinner, it was and is Jesus!

**Matthew 11:19 – *“The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous,***

***… and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners …”***

His love for His friends was so deep that He was willing to demonstrate it by dying on a cross

**John 15:13 – *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”***

What He endured for His friends!

**4.** Bathsheba - *Daughter of Complete Satisfaction*

What father has ever looked at his daughter and not been Blessed?

The soul's satisfaction is found in none other than the Lord Jesus Himself!

**Psalm 107:9 – *“For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness”***

Jesus is the rest and contentment for the sin weary soul!

**Matthew 11:28 – *“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”***

**5.** Mary - *Their Rebellion* (Who’s rebellion?)

What a contrast between her name and her attitude!

Mary the mother of Jesus was described by God as ***“highly favored”*** in **Luke 1:28**

The phrase *highly favored* comes from a single Greek word, which essentially means *much grace*

Mary received God’s Grace

Grace is *unmerited favor*; that is, Grace is a blessing we receive despite the fact that we do not deserve it

Mary needed Grace from God and a Saviour, just as the rest of us do

Mary herself understood this fact,

As she declared in **Luke 1:47**

***“And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour”***

The virgin Mary, by God’s Grace, recognized that she needed the Saviour

The Bible never says that Mary was anyone but an ordinary human whom God chose to use in an extraordinary way

Yes, Mary was a righteous woman and favored (graced) by God – **Luke 1:27, 28**

But at the same time, Mary was a sinful human being who needed Jesus Christ as her Saviour,

Just like everyone else

**Ecclesiastes 7:20 – *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not”***

It is our rebellion against God (as her name describes) that is taking men to Hell!

God wants one thing and our sinful flesh wants another

In Jesus, there is total reconciliation!

**I Timothy 2:5 – *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”***

He never lowers God's standards, He raises ours!

He turns our rebellion into love and devotion to the will and way of God

**I John 4:19 – *“We love Him, because He first loved us”***

**B. In These Woman**

In these five women is seen the complete portrait of our Lord's love and plan of salvation for fallen man

Allow me to pause and ask you this question …

Have you received Jesus as your Saviour?

Are you saved today?

If not, I want to take the next few minutes and tie all of this together for you

And to tell you how you can receive what Jesus has to give

**THE “BLOSSOMS”**

**THE “BLESSINGS”**

**III. THE “BEAUTY”**

**A.** **What’s the Beauty of it all?**

All this that I have been preaching may not make much sense to you

If that is the case, then take just a moment and hear me

If you get nothing else, please get this

**B. The Beauty is this**

Regardless of anything in your life that you perceive as a hindrance,

Jesus can and will save you today!

He is Not concerned with …

-- Our Origin

-- Our Ancestry

-- Our Station in Life

-- Our Past Sins

-- Our Future Plans

-- Our Present State

Jesus turns no one away

**John 6:37 – *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”***

I believe the Father is calling us today

Calling us to come to Jesus

If you will come to Jesus today,

He will receive you and He will save you and He will give you eternal life and a home in Heaven!

**C. The question is …**

Do you want to be saved? (Do you think you need to be?)

Do you want to miss out on Hell and go to Heaven?

If so, then come to Jesus

Come to Him right now

Today is the Day of Salvation, Now is the appointed time

We may not be a part of His Ancestry,

But we can be a part of His Lineage

All it takes is a step of faith on your part

By the way, faith is what saved these women, and it will do the same for us

Won’t you come?

**CONCLUSION**

Will you take that step of faith right now?

Will you come to Jesus?

He has come for you today, why don't you just come to Him?

**THE “BLOSSOMS”**

**THE “BLESSINGS”**

**THE “BEAUTY”**