

“THE GENEALOGY OF GRACE”

Matthew 1:1-17

Satilla Baptist Church

1452 Satilla Road, Wray, GA 31798

Sunday AM Service, December 9th 2012

Pastor William Pope

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References: “The Genealogy of Grace” Dr. John MacArthur

<http://www.gty.org/resources/articles/a287>

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Do you know who your ancestors are?
- b. Are you proud of your ancestors?
 - i. Examples of some of my ancestors
 - ii. Lee Family on Billy’s Island
 - iii. Turner Pope (His brother’s letter to him and death in CSA)
 - iv. Ancestor in War of 1812
- c. Some of our Ancestors were not people that perhaps we could be proud of.
- d. What about the ancestors of Jesus?

II. THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

a. Two Genealogies

- i. Mathew known as the Genealogy of Jesus through his legal Father, Joseph
 - 1. To a Jewish audience this would establish his right to the throne of David as the Messiah.
- ii. Luke’s genealogy is seen as the blood line of Jesus through Mary back to Adam to show that he is a member of the human race since it goes all the way back to Adam whereas Mathew’s only goes back to Abraham the beginning of God’s covenant with the Jewish people.

III. THE GENEALOGY OF GRACE

a. Begins with Two Men Matt 1:1 (David and Abraham)

- i. David
 - 1. Man of Courage and Daring.
 - 2. Great heights of passion both for God and in sin.
 - a. Committed Adultery with Bathsheba, then murdered her husband
 - 3. Poor Parent. His Son Amnon raped Tamar his half-sister, he did nothing. Tamar’s brother Absalom would murder Amnon, rebel against his father and take his throne and commit immorality publicly with David’s concubines.
- ii. Abraham
 - 1. Great man of Faith
 - a. Believed God
 - 2. Great man of Obedience and Sacrifice
 - a. Willing to offer up Isaac, His only son of promise.
 - 3. But was also a coward and a liar and a deceiver.
 - a. Gen 12:, Gen 20, He lied to two different pagan Kings out for fear for his life and told them that Sarah his wife was

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his sister, (which was half true, since she was his half-sister), He failed to love and protect his wife Sarah, and only by God’s direct intervention were the two Kings prevented from taking Sarah into their bed.

b. Ends with One Woman (Matt 1:16) Mary

- i. Although she descended from the line of David, she was a very ordinary young woman, who would bear the stigma of a conception outside of wedlock. There was a story repeated even today among Jewish circles that Jesus was the illegitimate son of Roman Soldier. Mary would bear that stigma.

c. Covers Three Eras (Matt 1:17)

- i. Abraham to David: Time of the Patriarchs
 1. Moses, Joshua, and the Judges. It included wandering, enslavement, deliverance, covenant making, law-giving, conquest and victory
- ii. David to Babylon: Time of the Monarchy
 1. There were only four good and Godly Kings:
 - a. David, Jehoshat, Hezekiah, and Josiah,
 - b. The rest would lead Israel away from God and into Trouble. Period of decline, degeneracy, apostasy and tragedy. There would be defeat, conquest, exile, and the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple.
- iii. Babylon to Christ: The Dark Ages for Israel
 1. Time of Captivity, Exile, Frustration, and of simply passing time.

d. Names Four Women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba)

- i. Women are rarely mentioned in Jewish Genealogical records. These Four women all bear some things in common:
 1. All Four of these women are foreigners and non-Jews.
 - a. Tamar: Canaanite
 - b. Rahab: Native of Jericho
 - c. Ruth: Moabite
 - d. Bathsheba: an Israelite but one who was married to a Gentile, thus by law making her a Gentile as well.
 - e. Most Genealogies very purpose was to demonstrate that a Jewish person was free from Gentile blood.
 2. All Four had either committed sexual immorality or had been the product of sexual immorality

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- a. Tamar: Gen 38
 - i. She posed as a prostitute and conceived a child by her Father-in-law. Her first husband was killed by the Lord for his wickedness, and then his brother was also slain for his wickedness and she was still left without a child.
- b. Rahab: Joshua 2,5
 - i. Harlot in Jericho who helped the spies and allowed them to escape through a window in her house on the wall of Jericho.
- c. Ruth:
 - i. Although not sexually immoral herself, Ruth was a Moabite. The Bible tells us the Moabites are the descendants of the union between Lot and his first born daughter in Gen 19.
 - ii. According to Deut 23:3 all Moabites were forever excluded from the Assembly of the Lord.
- d. Bathsheba:
 - i. Mathew seems to blush to call her name, he simply refers to her as the “one who had been the wife of Uriah” (v.6)
- ii. The Four model matriarchs of Jewish history were Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah, the wives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They are conspicuous by their absence here.
- iii. Mathew give the church four new Matriarchs, all of them preach the gospel of the deep and wide mercy of God.
- iv. Martin Luther said of this genealogy, “*It is though God intended for the reader of this genealogy to say, “Oh Christ is the kind of person who is not ashamed of sinners, in fact He even puts them in his family tree.”*”

IV. CONCLUSION

- a. Jesus read this passage when He stood up in the Synagogue to read:
 - i. ¹ *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,
Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

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² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

And the day of vengeance of our God;

To comfort all who mourn,

³ To console those who mourn in Zion,

To give them beauty for ashes,

The oil of joy for mourning,

The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

That they may be called trees of righteousness,

The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” Isaiah 61:1-3

(NKJV)

- b.* Jesus was proclaiming the purpose of His coming: To redeem the fallen, to give grace to the guilty, He did not come to condemn broken, messed up sinners like you and I, but He came to do what we could not do for ourselves....To save us from our sin, to remove our sin from us and to give us His own righteousness.
- c.* Thank God Jesus came to us through the “Genealogy of Grace”, so that we might know that He came to save sinners because He came to us through a line of sinners.