

## **Intro**

- ~ God has a plan but seldom works alone
- ~ He used the imperfect woman and men in this genealogy

## **Matthew's Men**

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

David

Solomon

- ~ These men all have something in common – a faithful God
- ~ This faithful God has a plan but seldom works alone
- ~ This faithful God wants to accomplish his plan so he'll use frail, sinful, broken people to do his will – because he has a plan but seldom works alone – he want to use people
- ~ These men all failed but God is faithful – because God has a plan but seldom works alone

## **Men in Matthew's Genealogy**

Abraham (Genesis 12-25)

- He was a moon worshipper before God spoke to him and called him to be his follower
- He lied twice about Sarah being his wife. He said she was his sister (she was his half-sister). But, he said this to protect himself from danger. So, he basically used his wife to keep himself safe(Gen 12,20)
- The Lord told Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. The Lord in his purposes was waiting for Abraham and Sarah to be too old to have children (Heb 11:11). It was then, that the Lord made it possible for them to have a child. But in the meantime, the Lord was teaching them patience by making them wait on God's timing. They got tired of waiting and figured God wasn't in any hurry so they made their own plans. Abraham listened to his wife took her servant Hagar and Abraham fathered a child with her. This made Sarah jealous and Sarah got made at Abraham.
- After having disobeyed God by having a child with Hagar (Ishmael) Abraham walked away from God for a period of about 13 years between chapters 16 and 17. In chapter 17 the Lord appeared to Abraham and God reaffirmed his covenant toward Abraham
- Abraham rebounds greatly and waits on God and the Lord gives them Isaac.
- Abraham is considered the father of our faith but even though he had some miss steps.
- What saved Abraham is God is faithful to his promises and from Abraham comes the Jewish race and ultimately the Lord Jesus Christ

Isaac (Genesis 26-27)

- Isaac also repeated the same mistake his dad did. Isaac lied about his wife Rebekah being his sister to save himself from harm.
- Yet, because God had spoken to Isaac and reaffirmed the covenant with him that the Lord had also made with Abraham – God blessed Isaac

Jacob (Genesis 27-35)

- Jacob's name means deceiver, supplanter
- He was deceitful
- He deceived his brother (Esau) out of his birthright. The Lord had already spoken that the elder brother (Esau) would serve the younger brother (Jacob). So, Jacob was deceitful in how he manipulated the birthright from Esau at his mother's bidding.
- Jacob also deceived his brother in-law Laban.

- God worked through Laban to transform Jacob's deceitfulness out of him by doing the same thing to him. Laban deceived Jacob by giving him Leah first to marry when Laban and Jacob agree that for 7 years labor Laban would give Jacob Rachel to marry.
- Jacob wasn't perfect or faithful but God had a plan and seldom works alone so God worked in Jacob's life to bring about his plan, which was the Messiah

#### David (1 Sam 16-1 Kings 1)

- David had many great moments. Perhaps his greatest being that of slaying the giant Goliath with a slingshot and a single stone
- Other great moments David had were not killing King Saul on two different occasions when Saul would have taken the opportunity to kill David if the situations were reversed.
- David also many times enquired of the Lord for direction
- David could have had Shimei killed when Shimei threw dirt and called David names as David rode of out of Jerusalem in order to avoid a war with his son in Jerusalem. But David didn't and let him do it
- David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son when it was customary to kill any family left of the previous kings regime in order to squelch and revolt
- David wanted to build a house for the Lord to house the ark of the covenant
- But, David also had some bad moments
  1. He should have been out to war but David remained at Jerusalem (2 Samuel 11:1-5). This gives us the context for David's downfall. Because he stayed behind he went up to his rooftop and saw Bathsheba bathing and David liked what he saw and had her brought to him. They have a child together and David didn't confess this sin and repent but tried hard to cover it up so much that he arranged with Joab to have Uriah put in the hottest part of the battle so that Uriah would be killed. It's only when the brave prophet Nathan comes to David and confronts him that David repents
  2. Because of this sin and hiding and covering it up God would discipline David in such a way it continued David's whole life
  3. David didn't properly handle his son Amnon's raping of his half-sister Tamar. Absalom takes matters into his own hands and kills his half-brother for what his did to his full-blooded sister. David then sends Absalom away from the palace. Absalom then conspires against David to take the kingdom away from his father (David).
  4. Then later David insists on numbering the military. This is so out of character for the usual humble David that Joab thinks it's foolish. David did this out of pride and self-promotion. The end result is the Lord disciplined the nation because of David's foolish pride. 70,000 people died because of David's pride (2 Samuel 24)
- David wasn't perfect or faithful but God had a plan and seldom works alone so God worked in Jacob's life to bring about his plan, which was the Messiah
- David is in the lineage of Christ
- Christ who will rule in the millennial kingdom is called a greater David

#### Solomon (1 Kings 2:1-11)

- He started out well. He was humble and when asked by God, "what is the one thing I can give you?" Solomon replied make me wise so that I can rule your people properly. (1 Kings 3:9)
- This request for wisdom so blessed the Lord that God gave him riches and wealth beyond what he could have ever hoped for
- Solomon's wisdom is known to all in the two mothers that came to him each claiming the child is there's
- But the riches God provided became a problem for Solomon
- Along with riches can come power, prestige and an untouchable spirit. He who was once humble was now proud.
- Solomon started out well but didn't finish well. Solomon then loved many women
- He who was wise became the fool and had 700 wives and 300 concubines
- These women turned his heart away from the Lord and he served their gods

- Solomon wrote many proverbs, Song of Solomon writes Ecclesiastes and it shows us he had learned from the foolishness of his empty life lived apart from God
- Solomon wasn't perfect or faithful but God had a plan and seldom works alone so God worked in Jacob's life to bring about his plan, which was the Messiah

### Lessons from Matthew's Men

- 1 From Abraham – God is faithful to his promises and we need not rush his plan and/or help him do it
- 2 From Isaac – Don't commit the same mistakes as our parents
- 3 From Jacob – God will work out of our lives that which doesn't glorify him because grace is triumphant
- 4 From David – One sin can tarnish us but God's grace can exalt us when we repent
- 5 From Solomon - We can start well but we must finish well

How do we tie reconcile the foolishness of these men and the fact that we read their names in the genealogy that gives us the birth of Christ? God is faithful and God has a plan but he seldom works alone

- 1 God is faithful
- 2 God has a plan
- 3 God seldom works alone

- ~ What we see is a faithful God (he made a promise to Abraham to bless the world through Abraham)
- ~ What we see is God used greatly those who availed themselves to his work in their lives
- ~ If God is faithful and willing to use us for his glory and for the accomplishing of redemption then there's no excuse for us to not be used by Him – unless we say no

### Though we see example of the greatness of God's grace it's no excuse to live a sinful life

- 1 We must place this text in its proper context (a genealogy that gives us Christ). That being said I won't find myself in such a genealogy. Christ was only physically born once
- 2 While God used these men (most of them were righteous men) they all will give account for their lives to the Lord in the day of judgement. We want to be able to hear the Lord say to us, "well done you good and faithful servant."

### So...back to our statement that God has a plan but seldom works alone

- ~ God has a plan but he wants to use people to accomplish his plan
- ~ God chooses not to use angels to accomplish his plan of redemption on the earth – he uses people with all their weakness and frailties
- ~ While we see the grace of God using people who weren't perfect may we be encouraged to serve even greater
- ~ We may say I don't have much to offer the Lord but the Lord can take what we have use it for his glory
- ~ John 6:1-13 Jesus feeds probably about 20,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Then after the meal each disciple gathers up a basket of bread. V11 says, the people ate as much as they wanted.
- ~ What do you have? What are your gifts? They may seem like little but offer them to the Lord and let him bless and use them for his glory

### **Conclusion**

#### **Little is much when God is in it, Kittle Suffield, 1924**

In the harvest field now ripened  
 There's a work for all to do;  
 Hark! the voice of God is calling,  
 To the harvest calling you.

Refrain:

Little is much when God is in it!  
 Labor not for wealth or fame;  
 There's a crown, and you can win it,  
 If you go in Jesus' name.

In the mad rush of the broad way,  
In the hurry and the strife,  
Tell of Jesus' love and mercy,  
Give to them the Word of Life.

Does the place you're called to labor  
Seem so small and little known?  
It is great if God is in it,  
And He'll not forget His own.

Are you laid aside from service,  
Body worn from toil and care?  
You can still be in the battle,  
In the sacred place of prayer.

When the conflict here is ended  
And our race on earth is run,  
He will say, if we are faithful,  
"Welcome home, My child—well done!"

#### Judah (Genesis 38)

~ Judah (the son of Jacob) has 3 sons (Er (who married Tamar), Onan and Shelah) The first two were wicked and the Lord killed them and Judah feared his 3rd son would also die so he feared to give Shelah to Tamar. Now according to the law it was the responsibility of Onan and Shelah to father children with Er's wife (Tamar) so as to preserve the family name and heritage. But Onan neglected his responsibility so the Lord killed him.

~ The problem at this point wasn't with Tamar but with Judah's wicked sons

~ v1,2 his wife was an adulteress "1 It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 2 There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her,

~ v28:12-16 "12 In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," 14 she took off her widow's garments and covered

herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 16 He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

~ So, Tamar tricks Judah into getting her pregnant by dressing up as a prostitute. Judah finds out that Tamar is pregnant and he wants her burnt for her immorality. She then responds to Judah by sending to him his signet, cord and his staff that he pledged to her.

~ He's the guilty one, more so than Tamar

~ Now we find that Jesus comes through the line of Judah and then Tamar (their children are listed in Matt 1:3)

~ It's grace that takes this terrible situation and uses it for God's glory

~ The grace of God included her in the genealogy of Christ

~ the sons of Judah (Onan and Shelah) could have found their names written in the genealogy of Christ but they forfeited that opportunity

~ Judah wasn't perfect but God is faithful

• Judah wasn't perfect or faithful but God had a plan and seldom works alone so God worked in Jacob's life to bring about his plan, which was the Messiah

Rehoboam (1 Kings 12)

- Rehoboam was the foolish son of a once wise king
- The 10 Northern tribes sent Jeroboam to represent them and ask them to lighten their burden and his authority over them lighter and they would serve Rehoboam. Rehoboam consulted with the older wise men who served with his father and they said listen to the people. Rehoboam said no and turned to the young men who grew up with him and they said make your authority over them even greater. Take away their privileges even more. Rehoboam listened to the young men and as a result there was a division of the kingdom and the 10 northern tribes separate.
- Rehoboam was a young foolish and power greedy king

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1 From Abraham – God is faithful to his promises

2 From Isaac – Don't commit the same mistakes as our parents

3 From Jacob – God will work out of our lives that which doesn't glorify him because grace is triumphant

4 From Judah – Our own treachery may be revealed but God's grace can overcome it

5 From David – One sin can tarnish us but God's grace can exalt us when we repent

6 From Solomon - We can start well but we must finish well

7 From Rehoboam – Apply wisdom

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