

A Star of Hope Various Scriptures

All of us have a family tree. Some trees are straight and tall, while others are mangled and maligned. Jesus' family trees, found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, are mangled and maligned. Yet, God used each of these imperfect individuals to bring about his perfect plan. This tells us something incredible about God's character and His approach to us.

This morning, we will consider the following:

- How God's people are imperfect.
- That God's plan is our redemption.
- That God's promises are unshakeable.
- That we are to have faith in a faithful God.

1. God's People Are Imperfect

The genealogy of Jesus is filled with individuals who had significant flaws and failures. Let's call them rascals and scoundrels. Let's briefly look at some of them.

-Rahab: Joshua 2:1 says that the spies stayed at the house of Rahab, the Canaanite prostitute.

-Ruth: Ruth 4:5 describes her this way as: *Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow.*

At this time, a widow's only hope for security would be her son's ability to provide for her. Ruth, however, has no children. On top of that, she is a widow from a despised nation.

-David: We know David as a man after God's own heart, a shepherd, a giant killer, and Israel's greatest king. Yet, he was an adulterer, a murderer, and a terrible dad. He also started many wars. This is why God told him that He would not build the temple because he had shed much blood. 1 Chronicles 22:8

-Solomon: David's son, Solomon, would become the king of Israel and be known as the wisest man who ever lived. He, however, married many pagan women who turned his heart away from God. 1 Kings 11:4

This is merely four of the people listed in the lineage of Jesus. It reminds us that God's work is not limited to the perfect. This is good news because, according to James 3:2:

We all stumble in many ways. Those who are never at fault in what they say are perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 3:23: *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. God isn't waiting for you to get your act together before he can use you.* He's not looking for perfection - *he's looking for willingness and availability.* Just like He worked through the flawed individuals in Jesus' lineage, He wants to work through you and me.

2. God's Plan Is Redemption

Each person in Jesus' lineage has a story of redemption. God took people from diverse backgrounds and transformed their stories into a beautiful narrative of hope.

-Rahab - James 2:25 states: *"Rahab the prostitute was considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies"*

-Despite her situation and being from a despised nation, Ruth said to her Israelite mother-in-law, *"Your people will be my people and your God my God."*

-David is still known as the greatest king of Israel and wrote many of the Psalms we use today.

-Likewise, Solomon built the first temple and is credited with two books in the Bible.

God doesn't grade us by our faults, He guides us by our faith. He has always had a plan to provide redemption through his grace. Paul would explain that the reason Jesus came was to accomplish God's great plan of redemption. Titus 2:14 says:

Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Remember that whole "imperfect" point? Our imperfections are a part of God's perfect plan. Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned". The next verse goes on to say: And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24

The lineage of Jesus isn't about showcasing a perfect bloodline. *It's about demonstrating God's grace, His ability to redeem, and his commitment to His promises.* No matter your past, God can redeem your story. His grace is powerful enough to turn your mistakes into a testimony of His goodness.

3. God's Promises Are Unshakable

The lineage of Jesus shows us that God is faithful to his promises across generations. Despite the ups and downs of those in Jesus' family tree, God's plan for salvation remained intact. This lineage is a testament to God's unwavering commitment to His people.

Long before Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem, God had made a promise to Abraham. Genesis 22:18 states, *And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*"

God made a promise to an imperfect person in Jesus' lineage. This promise was a part of God's plan. What we need to keep in mind is that God is going to keep his promise...NO MATTER WHAT! His promises are unshakable.

Despite our imperfections, God allows us to benefit from his great promises. Galatians 3:29: *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Jesus family tree is a reminder that God's plan is bigger than our mistakes and stronger than our weaknesses. Remember that God is faithful. His promises endure, and He is working out his plan in your life, just as He did through the generations leading to Jesus.

4. Faith In a Faithful God

So, the next time you feel disqualified because of your past or your shortcomings, remember Jesus' family tree. It's not about where you've been or what you've done. It's about where God is taking you and what he wants to do through you.

Not only that, but the Lord will hold on to you no matter what your struggles and weaknesses are and one day, He will turn you from imperfect to perfect. 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the beauty of the gospel - it's not about perfect people, but a perfect Savior. Jesus didn't come from a line of flawless individuals, but he came to make flawed individuals like us all. That's the power of God's love, and that's the message at the heart of Jesus' lineage.