

Wednesday with the Word @Wheat Street Baptist Church

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The Women in the Life of Jesus

Matthew 1:1

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

We see Jesus as Messiah as well as the son of David and the Son of Abraham. The genealogy commends Jesus as the perfect one, who has been preceded by seven times six generations and who begins the next generation.

The son of David = before Jesus was Solomon, this puts Jesus as the wise one. He is linked with the wisdom tradition. Therefore Jesus is a sage, a wise one, one who speaks in parables and shares liberating truth.

The son of Abraham = Jesus being son of the Jewish tradition. He was the one who was to be next to redefine the faith. As a son of Abraham he has the roots to be heard in the context in which he was ministering.

Who we are and where come from informs who we are and how we develop. When you say you are the son and daughter of...what is about who your parents, grandparents, great grand parents inform who you are?

For those of you who have children how have you influenced or tried to influence your children?

Does it matter who your people are? If so how so?

Do you some of your folk in you?

Matthew 1:1-3 - Tamar

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram,

Tamar had to do what Tamar had to do. The resourcefulness of women. The people on the margins were at the center of Jesus's genealogy.

What does this say to us and the role of women in the life of Jesus and the church?

Why do you think the emphasis is put on the women at the beginning of Matthew's gospel?

Who was Tamar?

Genesis 38:1-30

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. 2 There Judah saw the daughter of a certain **Canaanite** whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. 3 She conceived and bore a son; and he named him Er. 4 Again she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. 5 Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She was in Chezib when she bore him. 6 **Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar.** 7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and **the Lord put him to death.** 8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." 9 But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. 10 **What he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also.** 11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"—for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

12 In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," 14 **she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage.** 15 When Judah saw her, he

thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. **16** *He went over 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?" **17** He answered, "I will send you a kid from the flock." And she said, "Only if you give me a pledge, until you send it." **18** He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" *She replied, "Your signet and your cord, and the staff that is in your hand."* So he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. **19** Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite, to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. **21** He asked the townspeople, "Where is the temple prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?" But they said, "No prostitute has been here." **22** So he returned to Judah, and said, "I have not found her; moreover the townspeople said, 'No prostitute has been here.'" **23** Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her."

24 About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the whore; moreover she is pregnant as a result of whoredom." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." **25** As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "It was the owner of these who made me pregnant." And she said, "Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." **26** Then Judah acknowledged them and said, "She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not lie with her again.

27 When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb. **28** While she was in labor, one put out a hand; and the midwife took and bound on his hand a crimson thread, saying, "This one came out first." **29** But just then he drew back his hand, and out came his brother; and she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore he was named Perez. **30** Afterward his brother came out with the crimson thread on his hand; and he was named Zerah.

Matthew 1:4-6 - Rahab & Ruth

4 and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and **Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of King David.

Joshua 2:1-7

Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went, and entered the house of **a prostitute whose name was Rahab**, and spent the night there. **2** The king of Jericho was told, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land.” **3** Then the king of Jericho sent orders to **Rahab**, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come only to search out the whole land.” **4** But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from.” **5** And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them.” **6** She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. **7** So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

What does it say that Jesus has a prostitute in his divine lineage?

What is about this woman that we see in Jesus? Whose side is she on and whose side was Jesus on?

Who you are and what you do doesn't define your relationship with God. God can use a prostitute, an adulterer and the list goes on. Matter of fact when you study the scriptures God gets God's best out of folk with a checkered history.

While we say Jesus didn't have a checkered history, and he didn't but the folk in his blood line sure did. God is consistent, God delights in using folk who know that God can redeem, save them, resurrect them and use them for God's glory.

So Boaz's mother was a prostitute! How do you think his mother being a prostitute shaped how he saw women (answer after we read Ruth)?

Ruth - who was Ruth? What made her special? What do you see in her?

Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. **3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was**

left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. **7** So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. **8** *But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.* **9** The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. **10** *They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”* **11** But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? **12** Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, **13** would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” **14** ***Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.***

15 So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” **16** *But Ruth said,*

*“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.*

17

*Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”*

18 *When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.*

Ruth 2:1-7

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." 3 So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 4 Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered, "The Lord bless you." 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "To whom does this young woman belong?" 6 The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment."

Ruth 4:7-10

*7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. 8 So when the next-of-kin said to Boaz, "Acquire it for yourself," he took off his sandal. 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, **"Today you are witnesses that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses."***

Ruth 4:13-21

*13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; [f] and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. **17 The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.***

18 Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, **19** Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, **20** Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, **21** Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, **22** Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.

Matthew 1:6b - Bathsheba

And David was the father of Solomon **by the wife of Uriah**

2nd Samuel 11:1-5

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. **3** David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." **4** So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.)

Then she returned to her house. **5** The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

2nd Samuel 12:1-25

The Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill.

16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child; David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground. **17** The elders of his house stood beside him, urging him to rise from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

18 On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, "While the child was still alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us; how then can we tell him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." **19** But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, he perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead."

20 *Then David rose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of the Lord, and worshiped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him and he ate.* **21** Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you rose and ate food." **22** He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me, and the child may live.'" **23** But

now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

Solomon Is Born

24 Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba, and went to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he named him Solomon. The Lord loved him, **25** and sent a message by the prophet Nathan; so he named him Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” **24** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, **25** but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;[j] and he named him Jesus.