

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E7

Title – Four Unexpected Women In The Genealogy Of Jesus

Description – Genealogies are all throughout the Bible, but in Matthew’s genealogy, he lists the names of four women. These women all had something in common, join us today as we examine what makes them unique.

Today we’re diving right into the genealogy found in Matthew 1.

Matthew 1:1

An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Three names, what’s the first letter of each name, Jesus Messiah, David, Abraham. Reverse that and you have an easter egg that Matthew dropped in, ADM - or Adam.

You could read this and think it’s a coincidence, but we think that there are no coincidences in the Bible, nor are there coincidences in your life.

Matthew’s writing the genealogy and is trying to show us two things:

That Mary is and what she claims to be.

Matthew is trying to identify the elephant in the room: That is, everyone in Nazareth, Jerusalem, etc, were huge on knowing their genealogy. You had to know your family history to determine where your ancestral land was, where you were from, if you were a priest (of the tribe of Levi) or had to serve in the priesthood.

Nazareth, even though it was a small, backwater town that didn’t even appear on most maps at the time, kept copious genealogy records. They knew that the Messiah would come from Nazareth.

Isaiah 11:1

“Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.”

The elephant in the room was around Joseph. He was disqualified from being in the lineage of the Christ, because of one man, Jeconiah.

Matthew 1:2-6

² Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,

³ Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram,

⁴ Aram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,

⁵ Salmon fathered Boaz by **Rahab**, Boaz fathered Obed by **Ruth**, Obed fathered Jesse,

⁶ and Jesse fathered King David. David fathered Solomon by **Uriah’s wife, (Bathsheba)**

Matthew uses 4 women in the genealogy. We see examples of this in Genesis 11, and in 1 Chronicles 2. But these are not normal women.

Tamar & Rahab - Canaanites

Ruth - Moabite

Bathsheba (Uriah's wife) - Hittite

So you have 4 women who are gentiles, who are non-jewish, who have some level of sexual immorality in their past. They all come from checkered pasts, just like us. We all have pasts that are sinful or shameful in some way.

Bathsheba - the victim of rape.

Tamar - Incestual relationship with Judah

Rahab - Forced into a life of prostitution

Ruth - Moabite, Moabites came about from a incestual relationship between Lot and his daughter.

Remember, Nazareth was such a small town that everyone knew everyone else's business.

So Mary and Joseph have a stigma, or a cloud hanging over them for the rest of their lives. Everyone thought they'd committed sexual sin because Mary was pregnant before marriage. "C'mon Mary... really? God? Just tell us what really happened..."

There's this question mark hanging over Mary & Joseph the whole time they raise and parent Jesus. It followed them all the way to even later when Jesus was confronted by the pharisees as being an illegitimate child.

Why does Matthew put this in the genealogy? Because he's showing the very character of God. That God would use the outcast, the overlooked, the ones with the checkered backgrounds to bring about his plans.

The reason Matthew breaks protocol and lists these women in the genealogy is that he's preaching a message about Jesus, that Jesus came not just to the lost sheep of Israel, but that he came to save the whole world, both Jew and Gentile.