

Fathered by God Part 13: Welcome to the Family (12-8-19)

Review: "Conversations with Our Father" - In the Valley, On the Mountain Top, and Hiking the Trail of Life

Today: Welcome to the Family!

Matthew's Gospel starts with the Legacy and Heritage of Jesus

Matthew 1:1-16 (ESV)

(1) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Notes: There are so many stories in this list, today let's look something that should be surprising . . .

Women - Several are **not Jewish** - Several of them have **scandalous backgrounds!**

(vs 3) Tamar (Gen 38) - God redeemed her story as she was discarded and treated unjustly at the hand of 3 dishonorable men in her life (wicked husband, brother-in-law, and father-in-law). God gave her an heir and a place in the line of Christ, even with her scandalous behavior.

(vs 5) Rahab (Joshua 2, 6:17, 25) - The prostitute who feared God, and sought mercy from his servants, risked her life to save theirs. Of all Jericho she was the only one redeemed (her and her household), and she becomes the mother of Boaz (Ruth's husband), great-great-grandmother of David, and in the line of Christ (a non-Jew!)

(vs 5) Ruth - see the whole book of Ruth for this beautiful story! She leaves behind her people and her customs and way of life, and chooses to become a part of the household of God. Taking her mother-in-laws people as her people, and taking the God of Israel as her God. She becomes the great-grandmother of David, and the 2nd non-Jewish woman in the life of Christ.

(vs 6) Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 and after) - Uriah's wife, becomes David's wife, and after the grief of adultery, the death of her husband, and the child born from adultery, she is the mother of King Solomon, and in the line of Jesus Christ!

(vs 16) Mary . . . The Mother of Jesus

Luke's Gospel starts with the Story . . . Luke 1:26-37 (The visit of the Angel to Mary)

Luke 1:31-33 (ESV)

(31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:38 (ESV)

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Mary visits Elizabeth for a few months, and upon her arrival Mary expresses Gratitude and Worship . . .

Luke 1:46-56 (ESV)

(46) And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, (48) for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; (49) for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. (50) And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. (51) He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; (52) he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; (53) he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. (54) He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, (55) as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Notes: Mary begins by reflecting on God's blessing in her life, something she realizes she doesn't deserve. Then she adjusts her gazes and reflects back on the larger story . . .

Mary recognizes that what is happening to her is beyond her - it ties in with something larger. She is aware of the larger story and her place in it.

In light of all of this - Mary says yes to Jesus being birthed through her life!

***Because Mary said yes, her story expands to include others . . .**

Luke 2: The Shepherds are visited by angels, and then they drop in on a newborn baby and His parents!

Luke 2:16-18 (ESV)

(16) And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (17) And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. (18) And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Notes:

- The community shares a baby - this happens all the time. Watch people around a new-born baby. They all want to come up and see it, hold it, etc.
- This even happens in anticipation of a baby - watch people around a pregnant woman, even one they don't know!
- The community lays claim to a baby, well that is because all babies are a hint towards to one baby that does belong to the whole human community . . .

Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)

(10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news** of great joy that will be **for all the people**. (11) For **unto you is born** this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Notes: Jesus birth means not just that God has become part of the Human family, but that we all have been invited into His family! This news is for **All** and just for **You!**

What does all of this mean for us?

Adoption - we are adopted into a family and into a larger story. Our story of redemption has significance beyond what we can imagine because it fits within a larger story of the people of God.

Galatians 4:3-7 (ESV)

(3) In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. (4) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Notes: In light of all these things, We have 3 take aways this morning . . .

1) There is a place for you - This family, is your family! (No matter your story or background).

Examples: Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba

2) You are a part of a larger family - join in! (Participate in the family life, learn the larger story)

Examples: Rahab, Ruth, and Mary

Ruth 1:16-17 (ESV)

(16) But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (17) Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

3) Make room for him to be born in your life, and allow him to use you to welcome in others!

Examples: Rahab, Ruth, and Mary

Conclusion: We are welcomed into the Family of God, and now His Son can be born in us too. This will be the miracle of our life and the miracle that carries that life forward into the lives of others!