

Matthew 1:1-17

Beauty Out of Brokenness

Image Church // Behold Him: Week 1

Introduction

Promote Christmas invitation for Christmas Eve!

We're Kicking off a new series this morning called **Behold Him**, where we are looking at who Jesus is and how He is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to restore humanity.

We started **Advent** last week... **Advent** means *arrival*. As we meditate on the arrival of Jesus, we want to understand the implications surrounding His coming...

If you have your Bible, turn to Matthew 1...

Have you ever had the thought cross your mind if you're honest:

- How could God work through someone like me?
- I feel like my life is a train wreck- there's no way that God could use this mangled mess...
- I have so much sin in my now or in my past. Can God really use me?
- Do you feel ashamed of your past or your family and feel unqualified and unfit for God to use you?
- Do you ever go through seasons where you feel disconnected from God? Maybe you're in one right now... A season where you're discouraged and don't know which way is up spiritually? And you lack confidence in God's ability to still use you?
- Maybe you feel burdened by your inconsistency in the Christian life? How you can't seem to figure things out when it comes to the Spiritual formation of your life...

- Are you walking through a set of circumstances and wondering where God is and if He's even at work at all in the midst of it?

For some of you, do you really know who Jesus is, His power, and what He came to do, and what that means for your life right now?

Matthew 1:1-17

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

FROM ABRAHAM TO DAVID

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.

FROM DAVID TO THE BABYLONIAN EXILE

David fathered Solomon by Uriah's wife,

7 Solomon fathered Rehoboam,

Rehoboam fathered Abijah,

Abijah fathered Asa,

8 Asa fathered Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,

Joram fathered Uzziah,

9 Uzziah fathered Jotham,

Jotham fathered Ahaz,

Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,

10 Hezekiah fathered Manasseh,

Manasseh fathered Amon,

Amon fathered Josiah,
11 and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers
at the time of the exile to Babylon.

FROM THE EXILE TO THE MESSIAH

12 After the exile to Babylon
Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel,
Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,

13 Zerubbabel fathered Abiud,
Abiud fathered Eliakim,
Eliakim fathered Azor,

14 Azor fathered Zadok,
Zadok fathered Achim,
Achim fathered Eliud,

15 Eliud fathered Eleazar,
Eleazar fathered Matthan,
Matthan fathered Jacob,

16 and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary,
who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen
generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen
generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Messiah,
fourteen generations.

What we have here is a **genealogy**...

- Some of you love genealogies...
- *Prick your finger and send it off... Little strange...*

But you do it to know where you came from...

- *Some of you are like, I don't even want to know lol!*

Now, I know what you're thinking. *Where are you going with all of
this? This is just a list of names...*

- *How does this give me hope in the midst of the low points of
my life? How does this help me have confidence, how does this
help me in the midst of my circumstances*
- *How does this help me when I don't feel like I see God at work?*

And the answer is right here! But to see it, we need to **double-click** on
some of these people... And as we do that, we're going to begin to
see a theme, and that theme is going to give way to the answer that
we're looking for...

Verse 2:

Abraham (Gen. 16):

- God makes a promise to Abraham... Offspring will be more
numerous than the stars and the sand... All nations will be
blessed through him... He and Sarai will have a son...
 - But Abraham and Sarai were old... And only getting
older...
- Rather than waiting on God, Abraham and Sarai are
impatient...
- Sleeps with His wife's servant Hagar... Ishmael
-

Jacob (Gen. 27):

- Jacob has a twin brother who came out first...
- Tricks his brother and lies to his father to steal his brother's
birthright...
- Irony, Jacob would get tricked by Laban...
 - Jacob was in love with Laban's daughter Rachel...
Worked for 7 years to marry her...
 - Laban tricks Jacob and gives him his daughter Leah...
 - Works seven more years to marry Rachel...
 - This was a messed up situation on multiple fronts...
- And **watch this**: Leah, *the wife Jacob didn't want*, is the one
who gave birth to **Judah**...

Look at **Verse 3**, *Where we see Judah and a woman named Tamar...*

Judah and Tamar (Gen 38):

- Tamar was married to Judah's son... Her husband dies before
having kids...
- Obligation of the existing brother to marry (Deut. 26:5-6)...
- **Onan** was the brother next in line...

- Well, I don't really know how to say this, but the brother didn't seal the deal... He was prideful and didn't want to do this for his brother because there was no benefit for him so...
 - Gen 38:9 *whenever he slept with his brother's wife, he released his semen on the ground so that he would not produce offspring for his brother.*
- So he's struck down for his pride and disobedience...
- Judah has a 3rd son... But Judah drags his feet on this one... Seems to be a pattern here with Tamar... Judah thinks that his son might end up dying because of her as well...

So Tamar decides to do something about this. She wants a son, so she dresses up like a prostitute...

- Goes to the place where she knows that Judah will be passing by...
- Judah sees her and thinks she's a prostitute and says, *come let me sleep with you...*
 - **BTW**, don't miss the gap in the moral compass of Judah here... Tamar isn't the only one who's off the grid here... It's both of them...
- Tamar says what will you give me for sleeping with you?
 - Judah says a young goat...
 - She says, leave something with me until you send it...
 - I want your signet ring, your cord, and your staff...
- And then they sleep together... And she gets pregnant...
- About 3 months later, when she starts to show, Judah's told that his daughter-in-law has been acting like a prostitute and she's now pregnant...
- He says, bring her out and let her be burned to death...
 - BTW: notice the double standard... He had slept with a prostitute... Engaging in the very act, he's now condemning... Sick and twisted...
- So they bring her out, and Tamar says wait, I'm pregnant by the man who's signet ring, cord, and staff I have...
 - Awkward... by the way, I can only imagine how family get-togethers were on this one...

Jump down to verse **Verse 5**: let's look at Rahab and Ruth...

Rahab (Joshua 2)

- Rahab was a **Canaanite prostitute** who lived in Jericho...
- She hid Israeli spies who were scoping out the city to attack it...
- She jukes the King and saves the lives of the Israel spies
 - God spares her life, and she ends up being marrying **Salmon** and becoming the mother of **Boaz**...

Which leads us to **Ruth and Boaz**

- There was a famine in Bethlehem, and a guy named **Elimelech** made a bad decision and led his family into the pagan land of **Moab** during a famine...
 - Moab started through an **incestuous relationship** between Lot and his daughters...
 - *They got him drunk and slept with him... formed Moab*
 - God told his people to stay away from them...
- **Elimelech** takes his wife and 2 sons there...
- Elimelech dies, and his sons marry 2 Moabite women...
- They end up both dying... *Tough situation...*
- So there's 3 women left.... **Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth**...
- **Naomi** the mother-in-law... Says for them to go back to their mothers, that she's going to return back...
 - **Orpah** leaves **Ruth** insists on staying with her... Submitting herself to the God of Israel...
- They go to Bethlehem, they are poor, barely getting by with no hope of a future, but she takes a step of faith on a whim...
- Connects with the field owner Boaz, who just so happens to be the families kinsman redeemer (*in line to marry a widow to preserve the family line*)
- In none other than an act of God... **Ruth and Boaz get married** boom, here she is!

Verse 6:

David (2 Samuel 11)

- Doesn't list out **Bathsheba**... Why? I believe it's because God didn't want us to overlook the reality of what happened... Put her name in there, and we might read over it, but lay it out like it is here... David had a son with another man's wife, and we see it for what it is...
 - Not only did David leverage his position and power to summon and sleep with a woman he saw bathing...
 - He also had her husband killed...
 - He even had her husband **Uriah** carry the message that would lead to his death...
- **David and Bathsheba** have a son named **Solomon**...

Verse 7:

Solomon (1 Kings 11:9-13)

- David's son had it all...
- His heart turned away from the Lord...
- Women were his weakness; married a bunch of foreign pagan women and built places of worship for his wives God's...

Verses 8-11:

- **Asa**: (2 Chron. 16)
 - Didn't trust the Lord and depended on another King instead of God...
- **Jehoshaphat** (2 Chron. 19)
 - Not once but twice didn't listen to the Lord and aligned with wicked kings the first time, God spared his life in battle, and the second time the Lord destroyed his efforts...
- **Joram (Jehoram)** (2 Chron. 21)
 - Killed his brothers and other princes to strengthen his position in the kingdom...
 - He did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord...
 - He was so evil that the Lord struck him with a disease of the intestines...

- **Ahaz**: (2 Chron. 28)
 - Didn't walk in the ways of the Lord and made idols...
 - He imitated the detestable practices of the nations that God has eliminated...
- **Hezekiah** (2 Chron. 32)
 - Had a pride issue before God...
- **Manasseh** (2 Chron. 33)
 - Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord imitating detestable practices including witchcraft and sorcery...
 - Rebuilt alters for the pagan god Baal...
 - He build alters to the starts in the Lords Temple...

We could keep going...

***What I want you to see is how God brings beauty out of brokenness...**

Do you see the make-up of Jesus' family line...

- *Some of you think you have a messed up family line. You ain't got nothing on this!*

And yet, this was the way of Jesus from before the foundations of the world...

- What you see is **the sovereignty of God**...
 - *His supreme power and authority... His ability to control all things for His purposes...*

What I want you to see is how God works through sin and brokenness to bring about something beautiful...¹

He works despite of sin, and He even works through sin to bring about His perfect plan...

- This is how powerful God is...

¹ Some thoughts in this section attributed to John Piper, Why did Jesus choose Judas? March 5, 2021.

*There's something else here that I think applies on a deeply personal level...

In the same way that God works through sin to bring about something beautiful through Christ, **God can also use the sin in your life to bring about something beautiful in you...**²

This isn't a license to sin... This is hope in the midst of your sin...

- **God is a God that brings beauty and restoration out of brokenness...**

*If God can work through the people in this genealogy despite of their sins and shortcomings, how much more can He work through you?!?

And not only can you trust that God can work through you, but that God's also working in the midst of your circumstances...

In the same way that God worked in the mess to bring about your salvation, He's working in the midst of your circumstances...

Illustration: My wife deep cleaning... She has a very specific purpose...

- She makes a mess before she cleans... You would walk in and see it and be like this is a mess if you didn't know better...

I know for some of you, you come from a hard past... You come from a hard family dynamic...

This is what's so incredible about the redeeming God of the bible!

- That even the bad can be redeemed for good...
- **Romans 8:28...** ALL THINGS work together...
 - **V. 29:** For the purpose of being conformed into the Image of Christ!

God is a God that is always weaving together beauty from what seems like brokenness for the sake of His glory...

Which means that even if it might seem like God's not at work, He is in fact very much at work and in complete control...

Ultimately, though, you need to see a genealogy of redemption...

God loves hitting straight licks with crooked sticks...

Some of you are hurting because you come from a broken family similar in some ways where some deep and dark things happened... Some of you are ashamed of your parents...

God loves using crooked sticks to hit straight licks...

Would you trust and turn to him... Gospel appeal

Conclusion [VAMP]

God is working in your life to orient you around Him and His redemptive work...

I believe that God's doing that right now, you're not here by accident... For some of you it is about reorienting around Jesus...

- Some of you need to be refreshed...
- Some of you need to be reminded and encouraged that God is at work **even if you can't feel His hand, it doesn't mean that you can't see His heart for you through His Word...**
- You're up against something, you're fighting through something, you're failing at something, God hasn't left you to your own He is working

For others it's truly embracing Him for the first time...

No one is too far gone...

² This concept comes from John Piper, Spectacular Sins.