

FAMILY CHRISTMAS

“AWKWARD FAMILY CHRISTMAS”

NEW CHRISTMAS SERIES: “FAMILY CHRISTMAS”

TODAY: Awkward Family Christmas

Week 2: Interrupted Family Christmas

(Angel spoke to Mary & Joseph)

Week 3: Invited into Family Christmas

(We are all invited.....Adopted into the family)

6 Christmas Eve Services: Home For Christmas

-Christmas Eve Eve	(Tuesday)	3pm, 5pm & 7pm
-Christmas Eve	(Wednesday)	1pm, 3pm & 5pm

TODAY: Awkward Family Christmas

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

Matthew 1:1-6 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

**6 and Jesse the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,**

42 GENERATIONS FROM ABRAHAM TO JESUS!

TRUE JEWISH GENEOLOGY: Should have followed Just the men.

Matthew was Speaking to a Jewish audience

-Jesus needed to be tied to Abraham and David for any credibility.

ALL OF THE UNDERLINED PARTS DIDN'T NEED TO BE IN THERE!

LIKE MATTHEW IS HIGHLIGHTING THE SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET

THE NAUGHTY LIST!!!!!!

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO BRING OUT....hurt, pain, embarrassment???

HERE IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE UNDERLINED BACK STORY!

(In 2016 and 2022 I did a full 3 week series on this)

TODAY IS THE CLIFF NOTES!

**Matthew 1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,**

FIRST: notice he is not called Israel (his new name)

-Jacob had a brother named Esau that didn't make the list!

-Esau was the first born and should have received the blessing.

-Jacob STOLE it! Tricked his dying father!

-mom helped.....because Jacob was her favorite.

Gen 27:18-29 ¹⁸ He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?" ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing." ²⁰ Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?"

"The LORD your God gave me success," he replied. ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." ²² Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. ²⁴ "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied. ²⁵ Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing." Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me." ²⁷ So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. ²⁸ May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."

-Deceit, drama and lies from the very beginning! (ONLY VERSE 2)

Mathew 1:2 Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Jacob had 2 wives.....Leah and Rachel (Drama)

-Jacob wanted to marry Rachel (worked 7 years)

-Wedding day.....it was Leah and not Rachel

-Father in law Laban did a Bait and Switch!

-Made him work another 7 years for Rachel!

-Just more family drama.....There were 12 brothers! (12 tribes of Israel)

-Why add “AND HIS BROTHERS”????

-The FAVORITE son of the 12 was Joseph! (with RACHEL)

-Brothers wanted to kill him.

-JUDAH offered the idea to sell him....not murder him.

SO.....WAS HE’S THE “BEST” OF THE WORST?

THEN: 12 Tribes of Israel...INHERITANCE

(Not just 12 brothers divided up)

-10 brothers and 2 grandsons (Joseph’s boys)

LAYERS AND LAYERS OF DIRT AND DRAMA!!!!

So, Jacob was the grandson of Abraham.....stole the birthright!

-His name was changed to ISRAEL

HE HAD 12 SONS

.....10 sons and 2 grandsons (Joseph) made up the 12 TRIBES of Israel!

-VRS 3..... Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

-again interesting.....called him Jacob instead of Israel

-ALSO....interesting, the line goes on through LEAH

Judah and his brothers

-Judah was the 4th son of Jacob with Leah

-Joseph was the GOLDEN BOY

-It was Judah who suggested in Gen 37 to SELL his brother!!

(Better than kill him....BUT still not nice)

CRAZY TWIST:

So instead of following Joseph from the PIT to PRISON to PALACE.....the line follows JUDAH!

-Jesus referred is THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH!

Matthew 1:3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar.

NOW Genesis 38 is the Story of Judah!

There are many passages in the Bible that are difficult to preach.
Genesis 38 is right up there at the top of the list.

It's not BORING
It's not DEEP THEOLOGY
It's not IRRELEVANT
Simply put, it's TOO RACY!

-The story concerns JUDAH and TAMAR. (adult content)

-Judah marries a Canaanite woman! (Forbidden)
-BLACK SHEEP!

-They have 3 boys (Er, Onan & Shelah)

-Er marries Tamar (A Canaanite) and dies!

According to custom, Judah's second son, Onan, is supposed to father a child with Tamar on Er's behalf.

Genesis 38:8 Then Judah said to Onan, “Sleep with your brother’s wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to raise up offspring for your brother.”

In Gen. 38:9-11 in vividly clear language, Onan refuses this responsibility and takes advantage of the situation for his own sexual gratification.....And gets killed for his selfishness!

-So now.....on the the 3rd son Shelah who is just a boy!
-Judah promises Tamar, but is lying!

-Tamar waits and decides to take things into her own hands!
-She disguises herself as a prostitute and tricks Judah!

SHE GETS PREGNANT WITH TWINS: (Included in the story)

Matthew 1:3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar.

I NEED TO TAKE A BREAK!!!! (Throw up just a bit)
-YUCK....YUCK & YUCK!

-The blood line of Jesus jumps AGAIN!

-How are the first 3 verses in the New Testament going for you all?

Matthew 1:3-5 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab

Another woman's name in the story! RAHAB!

Rahab had a nickname.....a tainted reputation!

ANYONE KNOW WHAT IT WAS???? “**Rahab the Prostitute**”

-She was a Canaanite (not even Jewish) THE ENEMY!

A little history, Israel is finally a nation.....

-right out of slavery.....right out of Egypt RED SEA....wandered 40 years in the wilderness.....NOW READY TO GET THEIR LAND!

-Estimated 1 to 3 million Israelites are crossing the Jordan heading home to their promised land!

-The land that the Canaanites inhabited was the land God had given to Abraham for his descendants.....all of the people of Israel.

-And they didn't really want to move!

On their path, Jericho was in the way..... ENTRY POINT!

This was going to be the first major battle to take their promised land from the Canaanites.

Deuteronomy 9:1 Hear, Israel: You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky.

THEY WERE ON A MISSION AND JERICHO WAS IN THE WAY!

-One of the most fortified cities in that era!

-If they could take down Jericho, they could take down anyone!

So Joshua sent 2 spies out to check it out!

Joshua 2:1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

-Because Rahab helped them out.....they saved her life!

-She tied a “Scarlet cord” on her window to be saved

(Foreshadowing of the blood of Jesus)

Rahab is a picture of god’s mercy, outsider, enemy, and should be killed because of her being a prostitute. The LAW of Moses said she should be killed!

-NOW SHE BECOMES A MAIN PLAYER IN THE STORY OF JESUS!

Lets wrap this up!!! LIKE A NICE WHOLESOME HALMARK MOVIE!

**Matthew 1:5-6 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,**

(Nobel....has a book of the bible)

Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

42 GENERATIONS FROM ABRAHAM TO JESUS!

(Just the first 14 here)

Matthew 1:6 David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife

-OK.....THERE IS A GOSSIP TRAIN! SCANDAL!

SUMMARY: King David.....Cover up, conspiracy & MURDER!

-King David saw a beautiful woman bathing from his palace window!

-Sent someone to find out who she was.

-She was Bathsheba.....The wife of Uriah

(Uriah was special forces...."30 Mighty Men")

-David called for her and slept with her and she got pregnant!

-David had to figure out how to cover this up!

-He gave Uriah a pass to come home from war.

-Set up a "date night"!!!

2 Samuel 11:9-11 But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

COVER UP PLAN 2: Get him drunk!

2 Samuel 11:12-13 Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

COVER UP PLAN 3: Murder!

2 Samuel 11:14-17 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷ When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

THIS IS AN "UGLY" STORY!!!

TO MAKE IT EVEN WORSE.....

2 Samuel 11:26-27 When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT FOLKS.....THE FIRST 14 GENERATIONS OF JESUS FAMILY!

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR FAMILY HAD SOME DRAMA!

The question again is: MATTHEW.....WHY BRING OUT THOSE UGLY STORIES?

-Huge amounts of embarrassment and pain and stuff to bury!

-It would almost seem that Matthew was trying to discredit Jesus!

BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY DOING THE EXACT OPPOSITE!

HE WAS STARTING THE STORY OF JESUS BY WEAVING IN A STORY OF GRACE!

Matthew had been with Jesus for 3 years

-Matthew saw the miracles

-Matthew saw Jesus die

-He stood next to an empty tomb

-Matthew had heard Jesus Teach to thousands

-Matthew had heard and understood Jesus heart

He knew that all these SHADY people in the genealogy WHERE THE POINT of the story he was about to tell.....

14 GENERATIONS AND 1100 YEARS OF UGLY HISTORY!

-Stories of incest, prostitution, an affair and even murder!!!

To include sinners in the GENEALOGY was not an abomination...

IT WAS THE POINT!

Matthew knew that SIN wasn't just an issue Jesus came to address.....

.....IT WAS THE POINT
-Light coming into darkness
-Life coming through Death
-Grace breaking through the walls created by the law

Matthew knew what Jesus was about.....he knew why he came.....he knew what the story was all about!

For God so love the world.....

To include sinners in the GENEOLOGY was not an abomination, IT WAS THE POINT!

The story of Christmas is the story of God reaching into the lives of people that are hurting and AWAY from him!

Before Matthew even gets to the JESUS part of the story.....he shows clearly the heart of God! The grace of God!

THE ULTIMATE MESSAGE OF GRACE IS WEAVED INTO THE ENTIRE CHRISTMAS STORY!

Ephesians 2:4-9 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

GRACE...UNDESERVED FAVOR.....WEAVED INTO THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The entire Gospel is about JESUS.....

AND THERE IS NOTHING WE HAVE DONE THAT CAN KEEP US AWAY FROM HIM!

RESPONSE:

- 1) You have things in your past that make you feel unworthy!
- 2) You are invited into the story TODAY!