

“THE PEOPLE GOD CHOOSES & USES”

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TEXT: Matt. 1:1-17; 1Cor. 1:26-30

INTRO: While genealogies in the Bible are often passed over, this morning we’re going to focus on the genealogy of Jesus in Matt. 1 as we focus on the theme, *“The People God Chooses & Uses.”*

I. GOD CHOOSES & USES PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE MISTAKES IN THEIR PAST.

A. Jesus descended from David & Abraham (Mat. 1:1).

1. *“The Son of Abraham”* (Gen. 12:3; 22:18).
2. *“The Son of David”* (2Sam. 7:12; Ps. 89:3-4; 132:11).

B. The sins of Abraham (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 16:1-4).

1. Lying (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18).
 - a. They had the same father, but different mothers.
 - b. Half-truths are still lies/deception!
 - c. Don’t lie or tell half-truths to save face.
 - d. Once you’ve lied, lying becomes easier.
 - e. Lies have negative consequences.
2. Abraham slept with his wife’s maidservant, Hagar (Gen. 16:1-4).
 - a. This showed a lack of trust in God (Gen. 17:15-16).
 - b. This resulted in ongoing conflict between Hagar and Sarah (Gen. 16:4-6) and between their two sons, Isaac & Ishmael (Gen. 21:8-9).
 - c. A greater result has been the ongoing conflict between the descendants of Isaac & Ishmael!

C. The sins of David (2Sam. 11).

1. Adultery (2Sam. 11:1-5).
2. Cover-up (2Sam. 11: 6-13).
3. Murder (2Sam. 11:14-17).
4. Jesus descended from Solomon, the son born to David & Bathsheba (Matt. 1:6)!

D. The sin of Judah & Tamar – prostitution and adultery (Matt. 1:3; Gen. 38:12-18, 27-30).

E. The sins of Rahab – adultery (Matt. 1:5; Josh. 2).

1. Rahab made it into God’s hall of faith (Heb. 11:30-31)!
2. Rahab’s hiding the spies by faith brought her justification with God (James 2:24-25).

II. GOD CHOOSES AND USES PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN IN THE WRONG ORDER.

A. In the Old Testament more blessings were generally given to the oldest son in a family.

B. Of the men in the genealogy of Jesus who had brothers, six of them were not the oldest.

III. GOD CHOOSES & USES PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN TO THE WRONG PARENTS.

A. Many of the people listed in this genealogy had parents who had poor reputations.

B. Sin in your genealogy can’t prevent you from being chosen & used by God unless you allow it!

C. We each stand alone before God on our own merit, not the merit of our parents or ancestors!

IV. GOD CHOOSES & USES PEOPLE WHO ARE FOOLISH & WEAK ACCORDING TO THE WORLD’S STANDARDS (1Cor. 1:26-31).

A. God does this to shame the mighty and wise (v. 27).

B. God does this so that no flesh glories (vv. 28-31).

C. We are called to manifest Jesus in the world (Gal. 4:19; 2Cor. 2:15; 4:10)!

CONCLUSION: God chooses and uses people who have made mistakes in their past, and people who don’t come from healthy families (Matt. 12:50).