

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

***“ ... I bring you good news that will cause great joy for
all the people.”***

Luke 2:10

Merry Christmas from the FAM O LEE!

Matthew wrote the first book in the New Testament and his book is about Jesus' life but instead of starting with his birth, he starts with a list of his ancestors (two reasons – 1) to prove that Je3sus was Jewish and 2) to prove that he came from King David)...required stuff for Jesus to be the messiah.

But like we talked about last week, Matthew does something very strange when he lists the people, he includes some people you would not want included in your family history.

It's like Matthew is doing this on purpose to make a point, he goes out of his way to make sure we know that not everybody related to Jesus was an upstanding person, many of them lived R rated lives.

Matthew knew that most religions including being Jewish require you to impress a God based on how you live. Matthew realized and wanted us to know that a new approach to God was not based on the good or bad things we do, but what Jesus has done.

Matthew 1:1 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, (all the ladies breathed deep and the men looked at the ground)

Rahab had a nickname in the Bible ... most sold book in the world, people probably told her, give it a few years and nobody will remember.

Lots of people get labeled...Country Music stars...

Possum – George Jones
Red headed stranger – Willie Nelson
Bocephus – Hank Williams, Jr.
The Gambler – Kenny Rogers
Whispering Bill – Bill Anderson

Matthew could have skipped over this ... why would he draw our attention to her, because she is not only part of the story, she is the point of the story.

The nation of Israel left being slaves in Egypt and were finally going to the promised land, but they had to take from the people who lived there. They sent a couple of guys to the next town of Jericho and the King was told they were there so he sent soldiers to get them. They were told they went into the prostitute's house so they went to Rahab's house. I think they knock on the door.....she told them the guys had already left, but if they hurry they might catch up with them.

Joshua 2: 8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt and did what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. 12 Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my mother and father, my sisters and brothers and all who belong to them and that you will save us from death. 14 Our lives for your lives, the men answered her, "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly when the Lord gives us the land. 15 So she let them down by a rope through a window for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

The spies go back and tell Joshua, "Jericho is scared, this is going to be easy and they tell the story of Rahab, and their wives rolled their eyes and said sure, "You had to hide there!"

The Battle of Jericho...they were supposed to give up all their weapons and put on their tennis shoes and they marched around the city wall once a day for six days and then 7 times on the 7th day and then stop and shot – the walls collapsed on themselves!

God spares a whole family because of the faith of one Canaanite prostitute.
Joshua 6:22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her in accordance with your oath to her.

25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

This is a picture of the fact that God is a God of grace and mercy. By Jewish law, she should have been stoned to death, not allowed to marry a Jew, not allowed to enter the temple.

One day a Jewish guy named Salmon goes up to Rahab the Canaanite and says, "Rahab feel my shirt, you know what it's made of? Husband material. And she says to Salmon, "If you were a book you would be FINE print."

They get married and have a son named Boaz who was the great grandfather of King David

Conclusion:

Rahab carried a label all her days, right down to this time.

But she is not that far off from us. In some ways her story is our story. We carry labels around, too. Some of you, they are secret, they are known in another city, another state, some of you the label just came out and that's why your back in church.

Matthew had a label, too. He was caught red handed by Jesus doing the most embarrassing thing a Jewish person could do, collecting taxes for the enemy, turning their back on their people and their God and Jesus looked him right in the eyes and said let's start a relationship.

This morning, Jesus is looking you right in the eyes and saying, let's start a relationship.

Remember...My past life has nothing to do with my present relationship to God.

This is the story of Christmas. This is why God came down to earth as a man. This is what we celebrate.