

Grace in the Genealogy of Jesus
Matthew 1:1-16

Our focus on this third Sunday of Advent is the genealogy of Jesus as recorded by Matthew. It begins with an introductory statement that Jesus, the Messiah, was the Son of David and the Son of Abraham, words that root our Lord's genealogy in both the Davidic and Abrahamic Covenants. Matthew then begins with Abraham and traces the genealogy forward to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus.

What captures our attention in Matthew's genealogy, however, is the presence of those whom Jon Bloom refers to as a *Gospel Treasure*. He goes on to explain: "*The treasure is five women, notable because this is primarily a genealogy of fathers and sons. Their inclusion is also notable because the first four of them were among the most notorious women in biblical history: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba, with the fifth, Mary, strikingly different, yet having to face the stigma of a pregnancy before her marriage.*"

1. Tamar – the _____ daughter in law of Judah.

- *Tamar's inclusion reminds us that the Bible is God's truth for people in the _____.*

2. Rahab – a _____ from Jericho who came to possess a genuine faith.

- *Rahab's inclusion reminds us that God reveals Himself to unlikely people that they might _____ and be saved.*

3. Ruth – a young _____ widow who found spiritual refuge in the One True God of Israel.

- *Ruth's inclusion reminds us that we too have a _____ who became one of us to pay the price for our eternal redemption.*

4. Bathsheba – the wife of Uriah, guilty of _____ with King David, who became the mother of King Solomon.

- *Bathsheba's inclusion reminds us of God's grace to _____ His wayward children even when they fall into gross sin.*

5. Mary – an honorable young virgin who was shown grace to become the mother of Jesus but who, nevertheless, needed a

_____.

- *Mary's inclusion reminds us that even the most _____ sinners need a Savior just as much as the vilest.*