

Sermon Discussion Guide

Mothers of Jesus: Tamar and Rahab
Matthew 1:1-6, 16
November 30 & December 1, 2019

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon and take note of its truths about God, who we are as his people and what's required to follow him.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. We've begun this sermon series and the advent season by asking the question, "Does the truth of Christmas really have a grip in your life?" As you begin this holiday season, as a group assess where you find your heart and discuss what distractions are keeping you from truly celebrating Christ's birth.
2. This sermon series is about the genealogy of Jesus and the important role of women in it. Is this something you've considered before? What's the significance of women being included in Jesus' family tree?

Tamar and Rahab: Their Stories

1. What did you learn and what stood out in the stories of Tamar and Rahab as Brandon summarized them?

2. The product of Tamar's sexual relationship with her father-in-law was twin boys - Perez and Zerah, both of whom are specifically named in the genealogy of Jesus. What are we to make of Jesus' family tree having such a sordid twist?
3. The question/cry of Rahab to the Israelite spies is, "Will the Lord remember me?" This is the question that we ask in our sin, as well, is it not? What's the significance of a prostitute's question being the same question you ask?

Tamar and Rahab: Their Lessons

1. Sexual brokenness is complex. Consider the biblical stories and/or some personal experiences of sexual brokenness that you know of - what makes them complex and what are we to do with their complexity?
2. Sexual sin is deceptive. Why is it that sexual sin wants to live in the darkness? Why do we so often hide our sexual sin and our stories about sexual brokenness?
3. God can use the sexually broken. Re-read Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25. What is the hope of the sexually broken? Brandon said that change for Tamar and Rahab was the result of their faith, not the prerequisite for it. What does this mean?

Tamar and Rahab: Their Messiah

1. The gospel accounts include a number of interactions between Jesus and people with sexual brokenness. How do these stories relate to the genealogy of Jesus?

2. Reflect on and discuss the following quote:

“Matthew’s genealogy is a stark indication that God’s plan is not always accomplished through pious people, but through passionate and thoroughly disreputable people. Jesus did not belong to the nice clean world of middle-class respectability, but rather he belonged to a family of murderers, cheats, cowards, adulterers, and liars - he belonged to us and came to help us, no wonder he came to a bad end, and gave us hope.”

3. Brandon discussed how Jesus is not ashamed of sinners, including the sexually broken. Is there someone in your life who needs to hear that message? What does it mean and what does it look like to be a church with a savior who, “throws birthday parties for whores?”

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?