

# **Four Imperfect Women in a Perfect**

## **Matthew 1:1-17**

There are four women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in these verses: Tamar (Thamar – vs. 3), Rahab (Rachab – vs. 5), Ruth – vs. 5, and Bathsheba ("of her that had been the wife of Urias" – vs. 6). These four women are important in the lineage of Jesus for they show a wonderful picture of the marvelous grace of our Savior.

As we study these four women, we'll see that each one represents something different about salvation. Each one represents a part of how we were saved, and a picture of the saving grace Jesus brought to this earth that day in Bethlehem.

It is no coincidence that these women are listed here. It was not the norm to list women in a Hebrew genealogy, and the mention of them here demonstrates the significance of them as women, as well as the pictures they represent in salvation. It may seem callous or sexist, by terms today, to pick out any particular women in the Bible to demonstrate anything negative, but their mention here is not to be taken as a negative on women, but as a demonstration that God chose these four on purpose to show what Jesus came to do. There were certainly men in this genealogy that could represent these same truths but God chose these four specific women to show that salvation is for all – no matter race, gender, religion, or class. These women stand in the inspired, eternal Word of God as representatives for various aspects of salvation – no great testament can be given for them than this.

**I. THAMAR – TAMAR – VS. 3 – SHE IS A PICTURE OF THE BLACKNESS OF SIN.**

**A. *She was the daughter-in-law of Judah, the son of Jacob. She was the wife of the two sons of Judah – Er and Onan - Gen. 38:6-30. In all probability, she was a Canaanite, making the symbol even that much more dramatic.***

NOTE: If Tamar was a Canaanite (Gentile), then this picture also points to the Jew and Gentile being one in Christ.

**B. *She, through playing a harlot, conceived twin boys through Judah himself, Pharez and Zarah – through Pharez the line continued.***

**C. *This shameful history of the blackness of sin shows Christ as the Savior of sinners, no matter how deep the sin.***

Luke 19:10

**10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Romans 5:8

**8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

**D. *No matter how deep into sin that a person has gone, no matter what kind of sin a person has committed, there is One who can and will forgive.***

"Feel the Darkness"

Some years ago my family visited a cave in the state of Kentucky. The guide led us through many beautiful

and winding subterranean passageways. Suddenly he turned off all the lights and said, "I'm the only one who knows how to get back to the entrance. If I left you here, you'd probably never find your way out. Anyone lost in this cave would no doubt become insane within a week from the oppressive loneliness. Be quiet for a moment and feel the darkness!" I remember my youngster clutching my arm. After about 30 seconds, someone in the party could endure it no longer and cried out, "Turn on the lights! I'm going crazy now!" The guide laughed, but we'll not soon forget that frightening experience. I thought of the "outer darkness" of Hell and shuddered!

The Father of Heaven still invites men to the wedding feast of salvation. Through the Savior's atonement He has provided the perfect garment of righteousness that every sinner needs. You can avoid the horror of blackness that each doomed soul will experience in Hell. Without delay, receive Him who is the Eternal Light! - (as found in Bible Illustrator software)

## **II. RACHAB - RAHAB - VS. 5 - SHE IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF SAVING FAITH - GAL.2:16-20; ROM. 10:9-10.**

### **Galatians 2:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

<sup>17</sup> But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

<sup>18</sup> For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

<sup>19</sup> For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

<sup>20</sup> I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

#### Romans 10:9-10

<sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

<sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**A. She was a prostitute who believed the word given to her by the spies and thus put her faith in God – *Joshua 2:1-20; 6:17-25.***

**B. Rahab is the only one of the four mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament, and both times her name occurs it is in accordance with faith.**

#### Hebrews 11:31

<sup>31</sup> By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

#### James 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my

works.

**19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

**20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

**21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

**22** Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

**23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

**24** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

**25** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Faith is the key that opens the door to heaven. You know, you could have a key ring with a lot of keys on it, like this (use actual key ring as object lesson if you have one); they will look somewhat alike. But I'll tell you this. If you go to the front door of my house, you could try all of these keys except the right one, and they would not open that door. The right key to heaven is called faith, saving faith. That is what will open the door to heaven. There is nothing else in the world that will open that door. What is it? FAITH. (D. James Kennedy)

### **III. RUTH – VS. 5 – SHE IS A PICTURE OF THE DELIVERANCE FROM THE EFFECT OF THE LAW.**

**A. Ruth is perhaps the most familiar of these women to us because of the book that bears her name in the Old Testament.**

**B. She was from a cursed race – a people outside the Law – the Moabites.**

Deuteronomy 23:3

<sup>3</sup> An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

**C. Her name being there shows that those outside the law can now come through Him.**

**D. Her name being there shows, also, that there is neither Jew, nor Gentile, bond nor free, for we are all one through Christ.**

Romans 10:12

<sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Galatians 3:28

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11

<sup>11</sup> Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

#### **IV. BATHSHEBA – "OF HER THAT HAD BEEN THE**

**WIFE OF URIAS (URIAH)" – SHE IS A PICTURE OF THE BELIEVER'S ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.**

**A. She was the one with whom David committed adultery – **2 Sam. 11:1-17.****

**B. David didn't lose his position in God because he had sinned. He repented of his terrible sin and was still loved of God – **Psalm 51:1-10.****

**C. A believer is saved for eternity, forever.**

John 3:3

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

<sup>1</sup> John 5:11-13

<sup>11</sup> And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

<sup>12</sup> He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

<sup>13</sup> These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

A little girl had just finished witnessing to a small group of friends. Joyfully she told of God's saving grace and how His love had touched her heart. With assurance, she appropriately concluded her testimony by quoting these comforting words of Jesus recorded in John's gospel:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28,29). Just then a joshing, doubting friend piped up with the question, "But Maggie, suppose you slip through His fingers?" Quick as a flash, she replied, "Never, never! You see, I'm one of the fingers!" Maggie may not have been well versed in the language of theology, but a biblical principal had been lodged in her heart; namely, that "we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones" (Eph. 5:30). She knew that she had been joined inseparably to Jesus and that she belonged to Him. - (as found in Bible Illustrator software)

**Conclusion:** During this season let's not forget what it meant for Jesus to be born a human, of human flesh and bones, yet without sin. How, by way of His own family tree, we see that He came to save the lost.

Each of these four imperfect women gives us an illustration of what This Perfect Man came to do.