

Too Broken to Save?

Word

Scripture Reference

Matthew 1:1-25

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever researched your family tree? Share something interesting about one of your ancestors.
2. The story of Christmas is a story of brokenness. Read Matthew 1:1-25. Matthew outlines in this passage the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Looking at the names in Jesus' family tree, we can see some very prominent names like David and Abraham (v. 1), but we also see some who had bad reputations. Name the ones who are familiar to you. Why would the Scripture enumerate long genealogical records like this? Who were the five important women that were mentioned in the list (v. 3, 5, 6, and 16)? Discuss their stories and how it shows that Jesus' lineage was interspersed with broken people. In His kindness and sovereignty, God can still use you even when you make poor choices and end up failing to please Him, but why do you still have to make the effort of living righteously even when this is so? Discuss.
3. Based on the genealogy in Matthew chapter 1, the "perfect" family of Jesus was not really perfect. Matthew could have skipped mentioning the names of those who didn't have good reputations (like the bad kings), but from this lineage came out a perfect sinless Son of God. We can learn three important things from Jesus' genealogy. First is that a broken family can bring out a perfect person (v. 17). Out of a messed-up family came Jesus Christ, the Chosen One, the Messiah. Discuss how family histories affect who you are. How can Jesus' earthly family history encourage those who suffer from a questionable or messed-up family history?
4. Verse 18 tells us, "After Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit." Discuss what you think went through Joseph's mind upon hearing this news about the person he was about to marry? What good

character qualities did Joseph possess (v. 19)? How did he handle this difficult situation? How do you think people at that time reacted to Mary's situation? Would you have reacted differently?

5. Secondly, a broken reputation can be transformed into a greater Name (v. 20-21). While Joseph thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and explained to him about Mary's pregnancy. What was his response to the angel's message? Why did the angel tell him to name the child Jesus (v. 21)? What background or reputation did you have before you became a Christian? Despite that background, what great thing happened after you accepted Jesus as your Savior? How important it is for you to be called the child of God?
6. Thirdly, a broken plan can be redeemed for a better purpose (v. 22-25). Joseph may have had other plans, but he did exactly what the angel told him and took Mary as his wife in spite of her condition. It might have been a broken plan for him but it was redeemed for a better purpose. Share how a plan you have worked on for a long time was shattered. How did you react? Did something good come out of this failed plan? How does trusting God serve a better purpose?

Walk

It is amazing how God takes the brokenness in us, mends it, and turns it into something with a greater value. He can bring out a perfect person from a broken family, a transformed reputation from a broken one, and redeem a broken plan for a better purpose. It is after all about His grace. How does your longing for good opinion or acceptance keep you from doing what is truly right? Beyond the temporary and artificialness of the Christmas season is genuine joy—that God took broken pieces and produced a work of art that is you, His child. How do you feel that you are so precious to God not because you were good but because you are His?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for Christmas, for the joy of knowing that the Savior has come to save sinners like me. Thank You for the hope this season brings that someone broken can be redeemed, that someone tarnished can be made new, that someone whose hands are so dirty with sin can be forgiven—someone like me. Thank You for Your grace, Father. In Your hands I give my life to do as You will, for Your purpose, for Your glory. In Christ's name. Amen.