

Matthew 1:1-6

The Light Shines in the Darkness

John 1:5 (NASB95) The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

THE DESCRIPTION AND DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S GRACE:

1. The forsaken woman – SHE WAS FOUND - **Tamar** (Matthew 1:3; Genesis 38)

Principle: God will not forsake you.

2. the fearful woman – she became faith-filled - **Rahab** (Matthew 1:5; Joshua 2; Joshua 6:15-25)

Principle: God responds to those who express faith in Him.

"By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace." (Hebrews 11:31)

"In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?" (James 2:25)

3. the foreign woman – she became a friend - **Ruth** (Matthew 1:5; Ruth)

Principle: God includes those who others exclude.

4. the fallen woman – she was forgiven - Her who had been the wife of Uriah (Matt. 1:6; 2 Samuel 11)

PRINCIPLE: GOD FORGIVES.

Matthew includes these women not because of what they share in common with Christ, but what they share in common with us!!

Martin Luther

“No one can be good and do good unless god’s grace first makes him good; and no one becomes good by works, but good works are only done by him who is good. just so the fruits do not make the tree, but the tree bears the fruit...therefore, all works no matter how good they are and how pretty they look, are in vain if they do not flow from grace!”